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FINDING THE BALANCE

Regulations could hinder AI's growth

India faces the challenge of balancing responsible AI development with fostering innovation

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The revival of an ancient centre of learning

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India eases past Bangladesh

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Govt. removes NTA chief, hands over probe to CBI

Education Ministry constitutes expert panel to reform NTA organisational structure, SOPs and paper-setting protocols; Health Ministry puts off today's NEET-PG as a 'precautionary measure'

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

Burning issue: Congress workers stage a protest over the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG results, in Varanasi on Saturday. PTI

The Union government on Saturday removed Subodh Kumar Singh from his position as Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), which has come under fire for an alleged paper leak and irregularities in the NEET-UG examination, and other examinations which it conducts.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry announced the postponement of the NEET-PG examination "as a precautionary measure", just hours before it was due to be held on Sunday.

Conceding a persistent demand by students and the Opposition, the Education Ministry announced that the probe into the allegations of cheating and malpractice in the NEET-UG examination will be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation. It noted that the Centre has enacted the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, and vowed that "strictest action" will be taken against individuals and organisations found to be guilty.

These measures seem to be the first step in a promised overhaul of the examination system, with the Ministry constituting a seven-member committee of experts on Saturday to create a reform roadmap for the NTA and its processes. Chaired by former ISRO chief K. Radhakrishnan, the panel has been mandated to make recommendations on the structure and functioning of the NTA, reforms in the mechanisms of the examination process, and improvement in data security protocols, and submit its report within two months.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Six held in NEET paper leak case

PATNA
The Bihar Police on Friday arrested six people from Deoghar in Jharkhand in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case. A team led by officials of the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) brought the six to Patna for questioning. » PAGE 9

Railway services, hostel stay exempted from GST

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Meeting after almost nine months, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Saturday approved measures to ease compliance for small businesses, exempted hostel accommodation worth up to ₹20,000 a month and Railway services, and resolved to reconvene in August to initiate parleys on rejigging the multiple rates levied under the seven-year-old indirect tax.

With 11 new members from States such as Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Odisha, the council could only take up a part of its heavy agenda of clarifications and trade facilitation measures, but did grant some relief to taxpayers, including a waiver of interest and penalties on some past tax demands, along with steps to reduce litigation.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Key decisions: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 53rd GST Council meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

NEARBY

Order on mining leases triggers row

HUBBALLI
The first file that Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy signed after assuming office — pertaining to mining leases to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. and another to SAIL/VSIL in Sandur taluk of Ballari — has raked up a controversy.
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INDIA MPs not to assist *pro tem* Speaker

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The INDIA bloc leaders, who are part of a panel to assist *pro tem* Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab in administering oath to newly elected Lok Sabha members, will not be performing their duties, a senior Opposition leader said on Saturday. This could signal an escalation of tensions between the government and the INDIA bloc.

The Congress's Kodikunnil Suresh, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) T.R. Baalu, and Sudip Bandopadhyay of the Trinamool Congress were part of the panel, but they will skip their duties to protest against the Centre's decision to ignore Mr. Suresh despite his being the senior-most MP, sources said. Two other senior MPs – BJP leaders Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste – are also on the panel to assist the *pro tem* Speaker.

Bhartruhari Mahtab

"By all convention and tradition, Kodikunnil Suresh should have been the *pro tem* Speaker," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh told *The Hindu* in an interview.

While Mr. Mahtab has been elected for seven consecutive terms, the Congress MP from Kerala is an eight-term member. However, Mr. Suresh was not a member of the Lok Sabha in 1998 and 2004, and therefore, did not have an uninterrupted tenure in the House.

The Congress said the Centre's decision was part of the Narendra Modi government's "bulldozer tactics" in running the Parliament. "The Opposition is not going to take it lying down... It cannot be the standard Modi-Shah way of dealing with Parliament and bulldozer tactics," Mr. Ramesh said.

Upkeep time

Away from waves: Workers engage in maintenance and repair of deep-sea fishing vessels at a harbour in Mangaluru on Saturday. The annual fishing ban is in effect from June 1 to July 31 in coastal Karnataka. H.S. MANJUNATH

JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna booked, quizzed on sexual abuse charge

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Hassan police took Janata Dal (S) MLC Suraj Revanna to the Cyber Economic and Narcotics Crime (CEN) police station in Hassan on Saturday within minutes of a complaint being registered against him at Holenarsipur for allegedly sexually abusing a man who claimed to be a JD (S) worker.

It is said that the officers are inquiring about the complaint and are collecting evidence related to the allegations against him, which include abuse and threat of murder if the alleged victim revealed the abuse.

Earlier, the Holenarsipur Rural police registered a case based on the complaint by a 27-year-old youth, a resident of Arkalgud taluk.

Suraj Revanna FILE PHOTO

The police have booked the case against Mr. Suraj under Sections 377 (unnatural offences), 342 (wrongful confinement), and 506 (criminal intimidation). A case has also been registered against his associate, Shivakumar.

Mr. Suraj is the grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and son of former Minister H.D. Revanna.

His brother, Prajwal Revanna, is already facing accusations of sexually harassing multiple women and is in custody, facing an Special Investigation Team probe.

'Political conspiracy'
Meanwhile, Mr. Suraj has described the incident as a "political conspiracy" and that investigation would reveal the truth.

Earlier on Friday, Shivakumar had filed a complaint with the Holenarsipur police, alleging that the complainant blackmailed Mr. Suraj for money, by threatening that he would defame him by making allegations of sexual abuse against him.

At the farmhouse
In his complaint lodged on Saturday, the alleged victim said that the MLC had asked him to visit his farmhouse at Gannikada in Holenarsipur taluk on June 16 evening. As he went there, the legislator allegedly harassed him sexually, even as he protested.

The complainant claimed that during the recent Lok Sabha elections, he had worked for Mr. Prajwal. The MLC had appreciated his (the complainant's) work and shared his number, assuring him "a settled life" ahead.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Darshan, three others remanded in judicial custody

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thirteen years after going to jail in a domestic violence case, actor Darshan was remanded in judicial custody along with three of his associates till July 4 by the 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on Saturday in the Renukaswamy murder case.

Darshan, Vinay, Dhanraj, and Pradosh were handed over to the prison authorities after completing the formalities.

The accused were in police custody for the last 13 days, while Pavithra Gowda, who is accused no. 1 and also Darshan's partner, and 12 others were remanded in judicial custody on June 20.

The police have so far arrested 17 people in the case and efforts are on to retrieve the mobile data.

As per the remand application, the police said that as the data of the mobile phones used by the accused and witnesses in the case had been erased, they, with the court's permission, had approached the service providers to reaccess the data.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Summer chore: Children collect water from a municipal tanker in Vivekananda Colony, near Chanakyapuri. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Tangled web: Much precious time is lost in the daily rush to collect water for household needs. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Sweltering city: A mirage seen on Kartavya Path in New Delhi. The city experienced several heatwaves this year. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Summer of discontent

As Delhi battles gruelling heat, with temperatures nearing the 50 degrees Celsius mark, the water crisis has only added to the city's summertime woes

A stone's throw from Chanakyapuri, Delhi's Diplomatic enclave, and not far from the Prime Minister's residence, there is a fight for survival every time a water tanker enters Sanjay Camp. Residents of the area wait with a plastic oil container, a paint bucket, a petrol container, a tub or just about anything in which they can carry water back to their homes. On the other end of the line, at Munak canal that supplies water to Delhi from neighbouring Haryana, the Delhi Police have deployed a team to patrol the area to ensure there is no theft of water.

The severe water crisis in the national capital weighed down by gruelling heat has called for rationing of water across the city. While the Aam Aadmi Party-run Delhi government has blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party-run Haryana government for not releasing Delhi's share of water, the BJP has blamed AAP's mismanagement of water for the crisis.

Between a sweltering summer with maximum temperatures nearing the 50 degrees Celsius mark in many parts of Delhi and an acute water shortage, hospitals have taken to setting aside beds for heat stroke victims. There has been a ban on work at construction sites between noon and 3 p.m., so that the labourers do not face the brunt of the afternoon sun. On June 19, the minimum temperature was recorded at 35.2 degrees Celsius, the highest in the month of June for the period between 1969 and 2014, according to the India Metrological Department. The weather department has also declared that the number of days with a heatwave has been the highest this June over the past 15 years.

The Delhi government has declared 14 heatwave-related deaths so far. However, data from the Zonal Integrated Police Network of the Union Ministry, tabulated by the Centre for Holistic Development, showed that 192 homeless people died from heat stroke in Delhi between June 11 and 19.

(Text by Jaideep Deo Bhanj)

Fun in the sun: A boy cools himself down with a jet of water from a leaky pipe near India Gate. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

City auto union seeks rise in minimum fare

The Autorickshaw Drivers' Union has cited spiralling prices of fuel and spare parts, and inflation as reasons for its demand; union has highlighted its wish in a letter to the DC of Bengaluru Urban

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The current fare structure for an auto ride in the city is ₹30 for the initial 2 km and ₹15 for each additional km. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Autorickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU) has demanded an increase in the minimum auto fare as it has not increased for three years. The union has cited spiralling cost of fuel and spare parts and inflation as reasons for its demand.

Recently, the ARDU wrote to the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner seeking to revise autorickshaw fares in Bengaluru in line with the wholesale price index (WPI).

Speaking to *The Hindu*, general secretary of ARDU T.M. Rudramurthy said: "The auto fares were last revised on December 20, 2021, and before that in 2013. The extended time between revisions has posed challenges for auto drivers. Therefore, we urged the administration to consider annual fare revisions aligned with the WPI."

"Over the past three years, prices have steadily risen, particularly affecting the cost of auto spare parts. Drivers are encountering significant challenges, including heavy traffic conditions that limit them to no more than 70 kilometres per day, consequently reducing their daily earnings substantially," he added.

The union has called upon the government to amend current laws, specifically Section 67(i) of the Motor Vehicles Act. This section requires auto fares to be fixed "from time to time," but lacks clarity on the frequency of these fixes, noted Mr. Rudramurthy.

The current fare structure for an auto ride in the city is ₹30 for the initial two kilometres and ₹15 for each additional kilometre.

Meanwhile, traffic experts also believe revising fares annually could reduce complaints related to auto drivers refusing rides or overcharging. Traffic expert M.N. Sreehari said, "Regular fare revisions could help reduce the widespread issue of auto drivers refusing rides in Bengaluru. Many commuters complain about drivers not using the meter. Annual fare revisions would likely decrease complaints related to auto drivers overcharging and declining rides."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that he has not yet received any communication from the union regarding the request to increase auto fares. He explained that while annual fare revisions may not be feasible, they could consider revision every two or three years. He assured that he would look into any letters or complaints received by auto drivers and consult the transport department officials.

Traffic police book over 800 cases against auto drivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The West Division traffic police on Saturday launched a special drive against erring autorickshaw drivers and booked over 800 cases against them.

Based on complaints that autorickshaw drivers were involved in traffic violations and plying vehicles without the required licences, the traffic police conducted surprise checks posing as customers.

They caught 213 drivers demanding excess fares, while 234 refused to go on hire. The police also booked 383 drivers for violating various traffic rules. Three among them were booked for plying without driving licences.

The drive will continue in other parts of the city to check erring drivers and necessary legal action will be initiated against them , M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), added.

'BBMP West zone has the highest concentration of homeless people'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Life on the street
West zone has the most homeless people [39.6%], according to the Bengaluru Homeless Survey Report. The East zone [25.4%] is second, followed by Mahadevapura [10%]
Most hotspots (locations with more than three homeless persons) were located outside shops [41.10%], footpaths or pavements [28.77%], bus stands [10.76%], and railway stations [7.44%]
48.95% of the respondents reported facing difficulties in procuring food
While Bengaluru recorded 14,189 individuals classified under the urban homeless category, existing shelters could only accommodate 1,869

The West zone of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahangara Palike (BBMP) has the highest concentration of homeless people [39.6%], according to the Bengaluru Homeless Survey Report. The East zone [25.4%] is second, followed by Mahadevapura [10%].

The report was released on Saturday during the second annual conference on homelessness and collaborative responses, organised by Namma Kutumba (The Bangalore Homeless Programme).

"Regions with a high number of homeless individuals are characterised by the volume and diversity of commercial activities that take place there. This includes vegetable markets, mofussil bus and train stations, and loading and unloading centres for a range of cargo," the report said.

The survey was a component of the Bangalore Homeless Programme (BHP), a joint initiative of the Azim Premji Foundation and the Project Smile Trust. It was conducted in 2022 and had four broad components. The surveyors had identified 551 hotspots (locations with more than three homeless persons) and data was also collected from 1,591 individuals across 50 shelter homes.

The report also says that most hotspots were located outside shops [41.1%], footpaths or pavements [28.77%], bus stands [10.76%], and railway stations [7.44%].

While 48.95% of the respondents reported facing difficulties in procuring food, most of them said that they accessed food and water, mostly through hotels, begging, Indira Canteens, public taps, and religious institutions.

Family conflict has been identified as the leading cause for homelessness in the report with 34% of respondents stating it as the reason, followed by migration from rural areas [27.21%], and difficulty in finding work [26.4%].

The report also highlighted that while Bengaluru had recorded 14,189 individuals classified under the urban homeless category, existing shelters could only accommodate 1,869, indicating a severe shortage of facilities.

Bengaluru East had the highest number of shelters, with nine accommodating 135 out of a possible 256 individuals. Despite this, only 52.08% of the city's shelter capacity was utilised, chiefly owing to a lack of access and awareness about these shelters.

The report suggested several changes, including the provision of sleeping mats and tarps for harsh weather, and larger initiatives like creating affordable housing. It also recommended that hospitals provide homeless individuals with medical records to facilitate easier access to healthcare.

Other suggestions included fostering community development, establishing hospitals near shelters for better post-operative care, and improving access to nutritious food, through initiatives like Indira Canteens and public filter taps.

Finally, the report called for the passage of the Homeless Pavement Dwellers (Welfare) Bill by Parliament to grant rights to the homeless and prevent violence and arbitrary eviction that they often face.

Seer dies after he is assaulted in Malur taluk

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 70-year-old seer of Ananda Mutt, situated at Santhehalli village in Malur taluk of Kolar district, died of injuries, after he was assaulted allegedly by a rival group over a property row early on Saturday.

The Malur police, led by Superintendent of Police M. Narayana, tracked down the accused who were fleeing to Kolkata, within hours.

The deceased was identified as Swami Chinmayanananda.

According to the police, he was in the restroom when the accused [Arun Kumar, 55, Dharma Pranavananda Swamy,45, and Praneshwarananda Swamy, 48] armed with lathis, allegedly barged in, and assaulted the victim before fleeing the spot.

The profusely bleeding Chinmayananda was rushed to R.L. Jalappa hospital where he died.

A preliminary inquiry revealed that there was a civil dispute over the mutt property and administration of the polytechnic, which was the reason for the murder. The case has been pending before a court for many years. The police have made elaborate security arrangements to ensure law and order, as a tense situation prevailed for some time as news of the death spread.

"The situation is peaceful and the accused have been taken into custody, and all digital evidence has been seized for further investigation," said an officer.

Bengaluru City University gets two more constituent colleges

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City University has been functioning as an independent university since 2017. FILE PHOTO

For administrative purposes, the State government has declared the Government Arts College and the Government Ramnarayan Chellaram College of Commerce and Management (R.C. College), which are located in the heart of the city, as constituent colleges of Bengaluru City University.

The government took this decision at the request of the Bengaluru City University. Earlier, these colleges came under the administration of the Collegiate Education Department.

The Bengaluru City University has been functioning as an independent university since 2017 after being trifurcated from Bangalore University. But, the university has a single constituent college – Multidisciplinary Constituent College for Women – at Malleswaram.

About 4,000 students are enrolled in the university. However, the university has merely 12 permanent teaching faculty to teach such a large number of students. The bulk of the work is handled by more than 100 guest lecturers.

Citing the interest of students, the university had requested the government multiple times to fill up vacant posts of teaching faculty.

Advantages of the move

As of now, about 2,000 students are enrolled in Government Arts College and the Government Ramnarayan Chellaram College of Commerce and Management in undergraduate and postgraduate courses. They will become part of the university.

In addition, the university will be able to utilise the services of 80 permanent faculty working in these two colleges. According to university officials, apart from this, students of both colleges can advance academically by using the opportunities for research and academic collaboration, well-equipped library, playground, laboratory, and other facilities in the university.

In addition, the move will be beneficial for the faculty members. The retirement age of teaching faculty or professors under the Collegiate Education Department is 60, as compared to 62 for the university's faculty members or professors.

Lingaraja Gandhi, Vice-Chancellor of the university, told *The Hindu*, "Earlier, both were affiliated colleges of our university. However, the government has now declared both as constituent colleges of our university. Now, they come under the direct administration of our university. This will benefit both the university and the colleges."

Truck driver held for torturing three-year-old stepdaughter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Gauribidanur police on Friday arrested a 30-year-old truck driver for allegedly torturing his three-year-old stepdaughter.

Based on a complaint by the victim's grandfather, the police arrested the accused, identified as Amjad, charging him under various sections of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and for attempt to murder.

The police said the accused married Zarim Taj 20 months ago. She had been married twice earlier and had three minor daughters, including a three-year-old.

According to the police, the accused used to torture his stepdaughters. The accused on Friday allegedly assaulted the victim with a rolling pin and stubbed cigarettes on her, accusing her of crying and disturbing him while he was at home.

The child was rescued by her mother with the help of neighbours, and taken to Bowring Hospital where she is under treatment.

Employees' State Insurance Corporation
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
MEDICAL COLLEGE, PGIMSR & HOSPITAL
Sedam Road, Kalaburagi, Karnataka - 585 106
Ph: 08472-265546/47/48, E mail: deanmc-gb.kar@esic.nic.in

NOTICE
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR
ENGAGEMENT OF TUTORS / DEMONSTRATOR

Walk-in-Interview for engagement on contract basis for the post of **Tutors / Demonstrator (One Year)** on **24.06.2024, 25.06.2024** & **26.06.2024** will be conducted at ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Kalaburagi. For further details, please visit our website: www.esic.nic.in/recruitment.

Sd/-
Dean

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878; e-mail Id-; pdt.juidco@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

21/06/2024
TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
NIT No: - JUIDCO/NIT/Barki Saraiya/UWSS/23/545
Tender ID: - 2024_UDD_82342_1
PR No:- 317977
Project Title: **Barki Saraiya Urban Water Supply Scheme with 5 years of Operation and Maintenance**
The tender having details as mentioned above is cancelled due to unavoidable reasons. All bidders are therefore requested to wait for future correspondence regarding fresh tender.

Sd/-
Project Director (Tech.)
JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

PR.NO.327428 Urban Development and Housing(24-25):D

FORM No.
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)
No.4, Residency Road, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru – 560 025
Now at BSNL Building (Fourth Floor) Telephone House, Raj Bhawan Road, Bengaluru-560 001

NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION
under Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993

RC/2065/2017
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LIMITED
Versus
M/S SELWEL EXCELCHEM PVT LTD

To
(CH 1) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, 1st Floor, Ceebros Enclave, No.39, Montieth Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008, Rep by its Vice President Mr.Ramachandra Srikant
... Certificate Holder
(CD 1) M/s. Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd., No.3/2, Kheny Building, 4th Floor, 3/2, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009
(CD 2) B.Ravindra Reddy - Managing Director, M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd, No.437, VI A Cross, 11th Cross Main, Raja Mahal Vilas Extension, Bangalore-560080.
(CD 3) C.T.Kaverappa, S/o.Sri.C.C.Thimmaiah, **M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd,** No.123/2, 1st Floor, Puttana Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, Thippasandra, Bangalore - 560072
... Certificate Debtors

Whereas you the **M/s. Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd & Others** was ordered by the Presiding Officer of DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT 2) who had issued the Recovery Certificate dated **04.05.2017 in TA/45/2017** to pay to the Applicant Bank(s) / Financial Institutions(s) Name of applicant, the sum of Rs.91,18,778/- (Rupees Ninety One Lakhs Eighteen Thousands Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 9% p.a. simple w.e.f. 27.10.1999 till realization with costs and whereas the said has not been paid, the undersigned has ordered the sale of undermentioned Immovable / Immoveable property.

2. You are hereby informed that the **06.06.2022 at 11.00 a.m.** has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attached to the said properties or any portion thereof.

Specification of Property
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

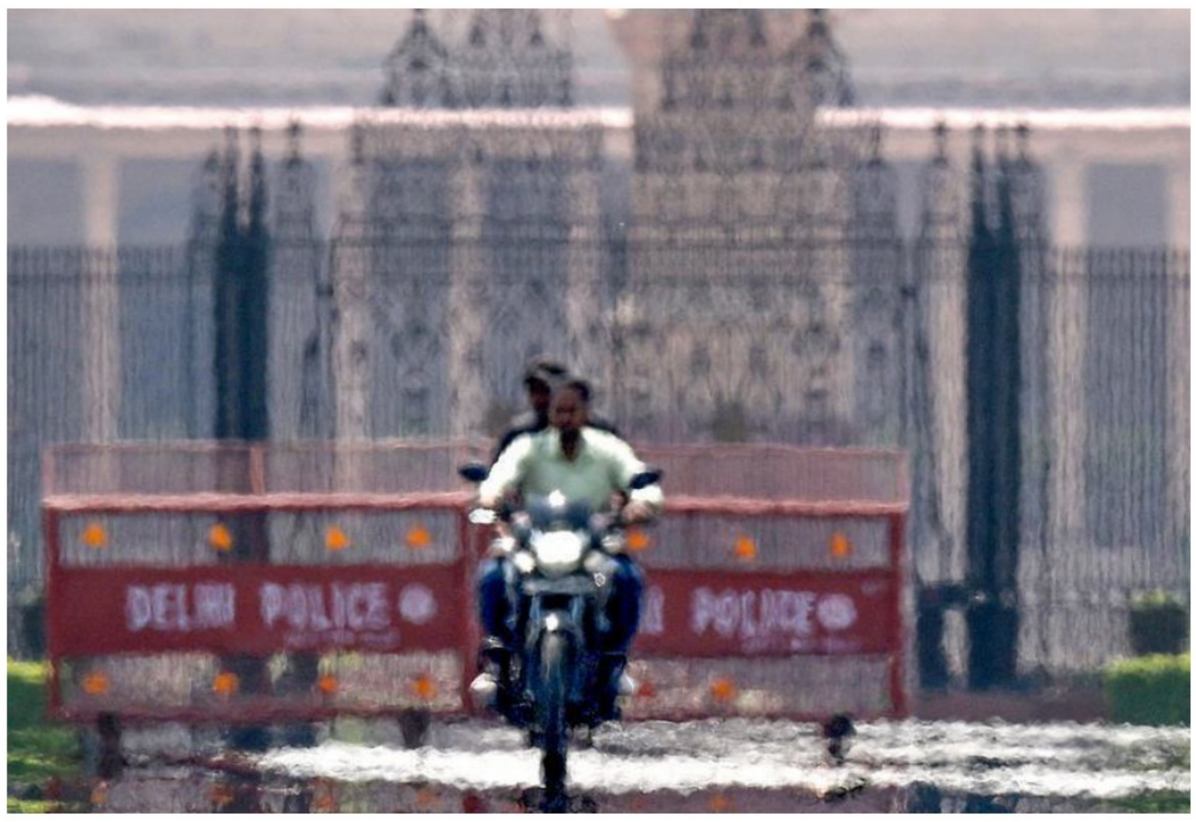
Mortgaged Property: All that piece and parcel of **land and Building situated at Plot No.108, Prashanthi residential K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore** South 60'+120'/2 x 6.25' bounded on the North: Plot No.91, 90 and 92, South: By Road, East: Plot No. 107 and West : 25' Road.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this date **25.04.2022.**

RECOVERY OFFICER
Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore (DRT-2)

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
POWERPLAY
T20 TRIVIA QUIZ
Turn to the sports pages to participate in today's quiz
Yesterday's winners:
1. Jitendra Karmakar, Cuttack
2. Shruti Jain, Mumbai
3. Dodda Mounika, Hyderabad

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
Bid no. E- 26 /2024-2025 **E-TENDERS** **Date: 18.06.2024**
E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vender must have Class III Digital Signature and registrations on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence **S. No:-Tender No. (Due Date). Description and quantity. 01.** 10231887D, (09.07.2024), Crab Injector, to PL No. 16130339, 238 Nos., **02.** 10241393, (09.07.2024), Ball Bearing Assly to PL No. 16150510, 2776 Nos., **03.** 10241438, (10.07.2024), Kit Gasket (Cylinder Head) to PL No. 16171366, 2200 Nos., **04.** 10241456, (11.07.2024), Valve Relief to PL No. 16241344, 264 Nos., **05.** 10231878B, (15.07.2024), Injector Control Shaft ASM RB to PL No.16050472, 40 Nos., **06.** 10241371, (16.07.2024), Gasket to P.L.No. 16170489, 3621 Nos., **07.** 10231311C, (16.07.2024), Plug ASM to P.L.No. 16340139, 211 Nos., **08.** 10241394, (19.07.2024), Needle Bearing to P.L.No.16150480, 9733 Nos., **09.** 10241348, (22.07.2024), Elbow ASM to P.L.No.16060260, 260 Nos., **10.** 10241441, (22.07.2024), Gear governor drive ASM to P.L.No.16050423, 172 Nos., **11.** 10241374, (22.07.2024), Exhaust Chamber to P.L.No. 16360163, 22 Nos., **12.** 10241324, (22.07.2024), Retainer to P.L.No. 16191833, 1689 Nos., **13.** 10241384, (25.07.2024), Bushing Camshaft Bearing to P.L.No. 16150144, 19679 Nos. **14.** 04240110 (e- RA Double Bid System., (01.10.2024), Battery Box to PL No.29680013, 1366 Nos., **15.** 04241095, (07.08.2024), Set of cover to PL No.29610242, 633 sets, **16.** 04241658 (e- RA Double Bid System),(13.09.2024), Long Life Loco Side Buffer Assly to PL No. 11663236, 2624 Nos., **17.** 04241058 (e- RA Double Bid System), (25.09.2024), Ballast Assly Kit for under frame to PL No.29170163, 445 sets, **18.** 04241040, (03.09.2024), Chain to PL No.29101074, 668 sets, **19.** 04241018A, (25.07.2024), Torque Support to PL No.29100380, 3894 Nos, **20.** 04241057A, (12.09.2024), Saddle Light Stauff to PL No. 29170072, 670 sets, **21.** 04241051, (02.09.2024), Safety Sling to PL No.29140201, 604 sets, **22.** 04241008, (17.07.2024), Transition Duct Assly to PL No.29470079, 547 sets, **23.** 04241000, (20.08.2024), Modified Platform Assembly to PL No.29170898, 743 sets, **24.** 04240009, (18.09.2024), Modified Striker Casting to PL No.29130062, 956 Nos., **25.** 04241063, (03.10.2024), 1) Angle Plate (Aluminium) Type-01 to PL No.29170370, 441 Nos., 2) Angle Plate (Aluminium) Type-02 to PL No.29170382, 441 Nos. **Note:** The details of above tenders are available on **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Senior Material Manager
P.R./BLW/S-27
/blwvaranasi "वेबसाईट:~blw.indianrailways.gov.in"



Heat daze: Commuters seen through a mirage at Vijay Chowk. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Towel to the rescue: A motorcyclist in Mungeshpur on the day when the temperature gauge showed 52 degree Celsius. AFP

Bearing the brunt: A child living in the Sanjay Camp in New Delhi takes home a can of drinking water. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Brief respite: A man cools down under a leaky pipeline on a hot afternoon in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Every drop counts: A man quenches his thirst from a garden hose on the lawns of Kartavya Path. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUN. 23	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:49
RISE 20:19	SET 06:52
MONDAY, JUN. 24	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:49
RISE 21:13	SET 07:55
TUESDAY, JUN. 25	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:49
RISE 22:02	SET 08:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	23
Mysuru	29	21
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be pleasant Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely to occur. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid Night will be pleasant Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

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THE HINDU
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HIV patients fear NACO's index testing campaign will reveal disease to family members unaware of it

In the drive launched in April, counsellors focus on identifying sexual and/or needle-sharing partners as well as biological children at risk of contracting infection

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The National AIDS Control Organisation's (NACO) six-month index testing campaign, aimed at bolstering the identification of new HIV cases, has put some patients in a spot.

While officials said the campaign will help scale up HIV testing and counselling, people living with the disease are worried that their privacy will be at risk, as index testing may actually reveal their HIV status to their family members who may be unaware of it.

Launched in April, the campaign entails a voluntary case-finding approach, where counsellors, with the consent of HIV-positive index clients, focus on identifying sexual and/or needle-sharing partners, as well as biological children who are at risk of vertical transmission of HIV.

A file photo of nursing students during an awareness programme on World AIDS Day in Bengaluru.

However, most people living with HIV (PLHIV) are finding it embarrassing to get their family members and children tested, as they fear their relationship may be affected if their HIV status comes out in the open.

> I have a 17-year-old son. I contracted the infection after his birth and so far my son is unaware of my disease. Will he have the same respect for me if he gets to know my HIV status.
> **AN HIV PATIENT**

"I have a 17-year-old son. I contracted the infection after his birth and so far my son is unaware of my disease. Will he have the same respect for me if he gets to know my HIV status," asked a 49-year-old person living with the disease.

Sources at Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs) said that there are a lot of challenges in implementing the campaign.

"Counsellors are finding it hard to convince the index cases to give their partner's information. Even if they share, the partners refuse to get tested fearing societal stigma. We are worried that the patients may stop coming to the ART centres for medicine and drop out of treatment if they are pressured to share details," sources said.

NACO's letter
While index testing (similar to contact tracing) is not new, it is being taken up on a campaign mode following NACO's directions.

95-95-95 targets
On April 2, V. Hekali Zhimomi, Additional Secretary and Director-General, NACO, wrote to project directors of AIDS Control Societies of all States and Union Territories, stating that India is committed to achieving the 95-95-95 targets by 2025-2026.

The 95-95-95 targets are aimed at achieving 95% of PLHIV knowing their status, 95% of diagnosed individuals on ART, and 95% of those on ART achieving viral suppression by 2025.

"This necessitates a significant scaling up of HIV testing and counselling services, particularly in priority populations, utilising high-yielding, innovative, and effective strategies. One such strategy to bolster the identification of new HIV cases under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP-V) is index testing," the letter stated.

Acknowledging the challenges, Nagaraja N.M., project director, Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS), said index testing is a voluntary exercise that will help identify hidden cases and check the spread of the disease.

"We have told the counsellors not to force anyone to reveal their partner/children details. Their decision will be respected," he said.

High Court prohibits horse racing and betting at BTC for now

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Saturday prohibited horse racing, on-course and off-course betting activities at the Bangalore Turf Club, till petitions filed by the BTC and others are finally adjudicated before a single judge.

The Bench, comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind, passed the interim order, while staying the June 18 interim order passed by a single judge. The State government had filed an appeal against the interim order of the single judge, who had

stayed the June 6 order of the government refusing permission for horse races and betting at BTC.

While pointing out that the discretion exercised by the government in rejecting BTC's application for granting licence is *prima facie* reasonable and was on the basis of relevant and germane factors and considerations, the Bench said that the single judge could not have allowed racing and betting as an interim measure as it amounted to granting final relief itself, which is contrary to the law laid down by the Supreme Court.

"When the top office-bearers of the club themselves have been facing criminal prosecution and are the accused in a criminal case, it would hardly be safe to leave the supervision and the fate in their hands," the Bench noted, while pointing out that the BTC chairman, the CEO, the secretary, and a betting ring manager have been arraigned as accused, in a chargesheet filed against bookmakers for illegal activities within the BTC premises.

The Bench also said that the present situation is entirely different to the time when the licences were granted in March, when only an FIR was registered. The police now have already filed the preliminary chargesheet, in which the top office-bearers of the BTC have also been arraigned as accused for their alleged involvement in the illegalities of bookmakers.

The government's June 6 order of rejecting licence recited that the management of the BTC, though aware, remained inactive, and failed to perform supervisory role on the alleged illegalities of bookies and operation of unlicenced bookies on its premises, the Bench noted.

"If it is the apprehension that the event is prone to promoting and peddling illegalities relating to cash receipts, benami transactions, bookie betting inside and outside the premises, the competent authority is entirely justified in rejecting the licence to hold the event," the Bench said, and added that all these observations would be limited only for the interim order.

"The single judge rested upon irrelevant consideration in his reasoning to stay the rejection of licence and permit the horse racing event to take place... the criminal cases pending against the accused persons could not have been overlooked since they relate to the very kind of illegalities. The single judge erred in observing that in the facts of the case, extraordinary jurisdiction was required to be invoked and that it was exceptional to grant the interim stay and permit the horse racing...", the Bench observed.

Pointing out that the management of the BTC cannot claim impunity and cannot claim to be absolved for activities done by the bookies and their assistants, the Bench said that "the single judge, in holding that the activities carried on by the bookies have no nexus to the aspect of refusal or grant of licence, even if they are illegal and subjected to pending criminal proceedings, committed a manifest error in reasoning and in exercising his discretion in favour of the petitioners."

'Product Santhe' at UAS-B attracts over 15,000 visitors

Minister for Agriculture N. Cheluvarayaswamy at the 'Product Santhe' organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore, organised 'Product Santhe' to showcase its various products on Saturday. The event, which was mainly aimed at creating awareness among the public, especially farmers, about the activities of UAS, also promoted several self-help groups.

From agricultural products like seeds, aromatic and medicinal plants, biopesticides, bio-fertilizers, agricultural implements, vermicompost to food items like organic jaggery, honey, value-added products of silkworm cocoons and bananas, Rajmudi rice, organic ragi, jackfruit and its products were sold during the santhe, which was inaugurated by N. Cheluvarayaswamy, Minister of Agriculture and Pro-chancellor, UAS-B.

Products like coconut oil, handmade scented soaps and face creams, value-added products of millets, nutritional laddoo, bakery products, ready-to-cook powders mixtures and pickles were also popular among the visitors.

"UAS, Bangalore is the premier agricultural university of the State and has developed 485 technologies and 328 varieties in its long span of six decades. All these varieties are still popular among the farmers of the country and have played a crucial role in increasing the overall agricultural production of the state," said S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore.

He also said that over 400 quintals of sunflower seeds were exported to African countries, especially Uganda, through the East African Seed Company Limited.

More than 15,000 people participated in the santhe which was organised for half a day. While urging farmers to make the best use of 'Products Santhe', Mr. Suresha said that based on the feedback of visitors, more such events would be organised to popularise the products of UAS.

Study reveals impact of urbanisation on small towns

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

This summer's water crisis in Bengaluru hogged the headlines and turned the spotlight on water security in urban India. But little attention has been paid to smaller towns and cities in the country.

A recently published study has highlighted this using the example of Chintamani, a town around 75 kilometres from Bengaluru. The study shows how these towns are feeling the pangs of urbanisation – from overexploited groundwater and depleting aquifers to polluted lakes and fragmented planning.

The study – Mapping water in a small town: Data and insights on water management in Chintamani, Karnataka – was conducted by the Bengaluru-based WELL Labs, in partnership with Technology Informatics Design Endeavour (TIDE) and the Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA)-South Asia.

Water scarcity
The researchers chose Chintamani because the town is prone to water scarcity and is governed by a cash-strapped municipality, while its proximity to a metropolis like Bengaluru makes it likely that the town will continue to expand.

The study pointed out that built-up spaces concentrated in the centre of the town have tripled in size in the past 25 years. Their spatial analysis showed that only 7% of the land was built up in 1994, but the figure increased to 21% in 2021.

According to the researchers: "Currently, small and medium towns, characterised by populations below 1,00,000, account for 44.2% of the overall urban area in India, and constitute 26% of the nation's total urban population (2011 Census). Despite this transition, significant attention and resources continue to be directed towards large cities, neglecting towns and peri-urban areas. As a result, many towns grapple with meeting the requirements and ambitions of their growing populations, lacking essential infrastructure for even fundamental services, particularly in water and sanitation."

Key insights

- **Groundwater is overexploited**
  Around 100 municipal borewells are run interchangeably 24/7 to meet 40% of the town's needs. An additional 40% is met via private borewells and tankers
- **Aquifer is depleting**
  Chintamani is underpinned by a hard rock aquifer characterised by limited storage potential. This leads to limited recharge. Data and knowledge gaps prevent effective aquifer management
- **Lakes are polluted**
  65% deficit in sewage treatment capacity results in raw sewage entering waterbodies and rendering surface water unusable
- **Electricity bills are high**
  Over 40% of the municipality's operational expenses is spent on water supply infrastructure – mainly for power bills – and little is recovered through user fees as non-revenue water loss is high
- **Planning is fragmented**
  Multiple agencies are involved in water and sanitation schemes. They usually work in silos in the planning phase, which results in fragmented implementation and sub-optimal outcomes

The researchers believe that small towns could play a crucial role in advancing India's economic growth, but addressing their water and sanitation challenges is key for sustained development.

Chintamani faces a cycle of drought and excess rainfall - drought prevailed in 2014, 2016, and 2018, while the town reported excess rainfall in 2015, 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

What the study, conducted over 2021 and 2022, revealed was that Chintamani is over-reliant on groundwater, which meets 80% of the freshwater needs of the town.

'Burden on aquifer
There is a significant burden on the aquifer underlying Chintamani, but there are data gaps that impede better aquifer management and recharge. Water supply accounts for nearly 40% of the operational expenses of the municipality.

The preliminary analysis showed that over 50% of the town's drinking water needs could be met through local surface water. Chintamani's largest waterbody is the Nekkundi lake, which could supply 1.5 to 2 million litres per day (MLD) when it is filled to capacity. Supplemented by smaller lakes in the region, up to 4 MLD could be drawn from surface waterbodies, as opposed to the meagre 1 MLD currently sourced from the Kannampalli lake.

The researchers pointed out that this overview of the water situation in Chintamani underlined how interconnected surface and groundwater sources are, and how important it was to adopt an integrated approach to water management.

Woman injured after falling from terrace of building

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 24-year-old woman sustained multiple fractures after accidentally slipping from the terrace of a two-storey building in Deverajeevanahalli on Friday.

The victim, identified as Rubaya, a resident of Kanaka Nagar, was washing dishes on the terrace. The parapet was not that high and she accidentally stepped on soap and fell on the bikes parked below, said the police.

The entire incident was recorded on the mobile phone of a woman from the neighbourhood which later went viral on social media .

The severely injured Rubaya was rushed to hospital where she was treated in the intensive care unit. The police said that the victim is out of danger.

APPOINTMENT

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The Last Date for submission of application is 14th July, 2024.

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BUSINESS

Highly Educated father from upper class South Indian Brahmin Family ex banker and now head of a well known Organisation invites proposal for their only daughter 29, very fair and Attractive, Educated in London and the US interested in arts. Seeking good looking highly Educated, Loyal, Affectionate Hindu Boy (Not necessarily Brahmin) over 30 engaged in successful career or business. Please reply with horoscope, or date of birth and time and a photograph to Email Id: dr.vedaprasadmd@gmail.com

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

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HINDU YADAVA, 28, MD (Pediatrics), Doctor, Madurai seeks Yadava PG Doctor Groom. Ct: 9843811171

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GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family in Chennai Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

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CSI CHRISTIAN Girl 34 BE Working in MNC seeks BE/ME Christian Bridegroom with Good Job.CT:9043019165

DKV/SC 30/167 fair BE, TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu/CSI. Seeks Groom Dr/Er, Govt Employee. 8056143638

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SC AD Hindu Bride Age 24, BE,MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom, Bank/ Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 29 yrs. Ct: 9443643415

HINDU, ILLATHU Pillai. Alliance invited from a Tamil Nadu based well–settled decent cultured family for our Daughter, Age 24 years, Height 5ft 5inch, fair Complexioned, B.E, MBA Graduate. Contact: 9361741023

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PILLAI / MUDALIAR 36 fair Hastham MCA well settled in Chennai Seeks Profly Quafd Working Groom 8220757159

HINDU NADAR, 28yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Elite Industrialist. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact:9710093999/ 9710091999

SC AD 26/B.Tech.,MBA.,Software Engr.[MNC]1,25,000 p.m.Seeks Bride Groom.Ph.9444993417/Whatsapp:7397674481

TAMIL

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MUDALIAR: 26/ V.Fair, MBBS, MS doing, Chennai, Father Business, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Doctor / Business – 9962530015

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33 YEARS Patent Lawyer Parents Mudhaliar Naidu Intercaste. Coimbatore Grooms. Please Contact: iprbalu_lawyer@yahoo.co.in

MUDALIAR, SWATHI, 42/165, BE MBA, MBA(IIM) working in TCS 40 L PA, Preferred Professional qualified, Caste No Bar. suhamano@yahoo.com

HINDU CA Auditor 31/158cm Fair Legally Divorced Caste No Bar, Seeks suitable Groom WhatsApp 8667868854

DOCTOR AGE:27 MBBS,MS 60k above. Very Fair&Well Settled. Seeks Doctor, BE any PG & business. Ct:9176737036

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

Hindu, Bengali 33/6ft Phd, Assistant Proffesor IIT Kanpur seeks suitable well educated Bride. Caste no bar. Mobile: 8240619913

BUSINESS

AGE 37 Handsome, Settled Groom seeks Dignitary Family Bride& 1st Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce 9597834451

COSMOPOLITAN

DM–DOCTOR (DEC 91, Tamil, fair, h'some, 185 cm, hastham) needs a virtuous, tall, fair, b'ful PG Doctor or non–medico bride below 30 years from Kongu Vellala, Kamma, Pillai, Nair or such milieu– Parents: 9342529547 / 9072118800.

HINDU BOY from a reputed family of Kerala 55 years UK Citizen Self Employed, previous marriage annulled looking for Bride(divorced also without any issues)with traditional values willing to settle abroad. Interested profiles with photograph send to email anil_raj@hotmail.co.uk or WhatsApp:+4478 46738646, +919446457939, +919074 872179.

COSMOPOLITAN

CANADA PHD Divorced, Caste no bar.seeking Hindu/Christian bride below 38yrs. +919894988302, +918122090357

REMARRIAGE 38, BE,Builder Seeks Bride,RC Christian& Hindu.Caste No Bar/No Child, Widow&Divorce. 9840311225

OFFICER, 58, Govt Dept Separated, Looking For Independent Broad Minded, Well Settled Woman 50+ With or Without Issues As a Companion Genuine Person. Call : 9585245551

DIVORCEE

RETIRED ENGINEER second divorcee age 60, seeking a kind–hearted woman, preferably a divorcee without children. Enjoys traveling, gardening, and good conversation. If you're a caring woman who values the same, I would love to hear from you. Ct. 88387 44120

DOCTOR

RICH NAIDU 28yrs MBBS,MS,Own Hospitals in Chennai Elite Family Seeks Suitable Bride 9710093999/ 9710091999

NRI

✔ **NAIDU 29/**180CM ,Pooratathi, Btech, MS, Working as Research Engr, PR of Sweden, Contact father 9566682220

TAMIL

ROMAN CATHOLIC Christian,Chennai. Fair 38yrs, BBA& Dip. in Mech Engg. Seeks bride under 35yrs . 9600060094

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN Parents seek Born Again and God Fearing Bride for their Son, B.E, M.S (USA), 28/ 172, working in USA, H1B. Caste No Bar. Contact: 8122785230

GOVT. COLLEGE Professor, 39 Seeks Employed/ Unemployed Bride. 94426 95558

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 35yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

MUDALIAR, DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor, Pvt Eng.College, age 50,Magaram, Seeks educated unmarried/widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/ OBC (40–45yrs) No expectation Ct:9150799959

SC HINDU Mithunam Thiruvathirai 30 / 180 Fair, BE, MBA IT Chennai seeks Homely, Educated, Mingle with Join & Well settled Family. Caste No Bar. vela4293@gmail.com / 8778546961

EliteMatrimony

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 29, 180 cms, Masters, Businessman. Lives in Singapore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off having business presence in many countries. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN, 30, 178 cms, MBA, Consultant. Lives in USA. Father is a Co-founded an eminent IT company. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 47, 178 cms, Doctor. Lives in London. Father is a retired person. Family is financially well off from a senior position from govt. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

ADI DRAVIDAR, 28, 182 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Father runs a star Hotel. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 37, 175 cms, Masters, Working Professional. Lives in Chennai. Father is a retired senior professional. Looking for an amiable match, Age upto 45 in any location. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 30, 165 cms, Masters, Working Professional, Lives in London. Father is an retired COO of a foreign Bank. Looking for a like minded match only from London, Age upto 34 yrs. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 23, 165 cms, Masters, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Father is a working professional. Family is affluent and runs educational institutions. Looking for a suitable match from Business family only in Chennai, Age upto 28. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 23, 160 cms, MBA, Lives in Bangalore. Father is an Industrialist. Looking for a suitable match from Business background from Tamil nadu Age upto 28 yrs. Contact: 6366448344

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COSMOPOLITAN

BRIDE WANTED

Well settled Nair family of Engineers in Trivandrum; looking for professionally qualified good-looking bride employed/ studying or planning studies/ job in USA.
Nair boy (Vegetarian), 33/174 cm, Pooradam, Mechanical Engineer B.Tech (IITB), MS & PHD (MIT, USA) is working (GC) in Houston.
Parents of accomplished girls from similar background may contact or forward horoscope to
Whatsapp 9446522145and/or suranjithaptp@gmail.com

TAMIL

Bharadwaj, Vadama, Thiruvathirai Girl 29/165 H1B /UX designer in CA-USA, seeks US based Brahmin groom under 34.
Ct: 99728 67016 / 98863 66855

SAIVA Pillai Girl 26/160 Ayilyam Fair B.Tech SWE MNC B'Lore,9367762226 senthilnathanb76@gmail.com. Cbe

Groom required for M A qualified Mudaliar girl 24/162,from good family, contact: 94990 15259.

WANTED GROOM with qualification Chartered Accountant or post graduate in Accounts and Finance, good looking and character and with clean habits for our daughter aged 27 years, height 158cms and weight 60kg, Vaniya Chettiar, beautiful and soft-spoken working in MNC in Chennai. Her hobbies are bharathanatyam, dance, tennis, violin and book-reading, We prefer groom from Hindu, tamil-speaking, non-vegetrarian, chettiar, mudaliar, pillai and vellalar only. Please send groom's horoscope and other details to What'sapp number 9444587465.

FINANCE / BANKING

31 YEARS. SBI. Currently in Foreign Assignment. Tamil Christian. Seeks financially independent intellectually inclined Tamil/ Malayali woman as life partner. Caste/ Religion No bar. Ctct: +968 78052213/ +91 9789227517 (Whatsapp only)

KANNADA

KANNADA VOKKALIGA Gowda 33/171 Maham Tax Consultant and Advocate 15L/pa own house, Chennai seeks Vokkaliga sudha Jathakam bride. 8939658785

MALAYALAM

HINDU VELAN, legally divorced boy aged 34 years Bcom, MBA, Pvt firm seeks marriage alliance from suitable girls. Caste no bar. Contact: 9074654641, 9447720954

TAMIL

DKV/PALLAN 27yrs B.E, working Indl. Automation SW. Company, Chennai. Well settled Family, Father Sr.Engr Rly (R). Mother DGM-ONGC seeks Groom clean habits, same caste, Govt. Emp /PSU/Pvt. 81489 49077/ 94450 05474.

CSI Christian Nadar 26yrs / 155cms. MA English, Media Consultant, Well off Family, Father is a Sr Officer, In Govt. Service, Looking for a Suitable Match from Same Community settled in Chennai or Abroad. Ct : 89399 99558.

TELUGU

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu 30yrs B.Tech, MS(US), Working in US, Elite Business Chennai 9710093999/ 9710091999

NAIDU 30/162 Thiruvonam B.Tech seeks suitable groom. Horoscope Whatsapp 9500046027/ krishnah5@hotmail.com

BALIJA NAIDU - Upper Middle class family is looking for a suitable Bridegroom for their daughter working in the USA, 29 years, Wheatish, 5.1 ft, BE., MS.,(USA) and pursuing MBA in USA. Bridegroom must be well educated, working in USA and must be well settled from a decent family. CT: 9047010018 / 9787943250.

TELUGU

HINDU TELUGU Naidu Born Aug 1990/ 165cm Ph.D Scholar smart medium complexion from a Reputed family seeks well educated and settled groom in India born after 1987. Ct:9790908109

BALIJA, TELUGU, Age–28, MCA. Seeks Suitable educated groom age below 32 from Chennai. Ct: 73585 80076

52yrs Brahmin Divorcee seeks Div/ Wid/UnM should relocate to Hyderabad. Pls WhatsApp only: 9032090571

HINDU BALIJA Divorced 32/155cms, MBA working in MNC seeks Naidu Groom Divorced / Unmarried below 38yrs Working. CNB Ct: 91766 59800

Seeking Bridegroom for 81 born Female Working in IT Company. Contact no: 7845728736

URDU

LOOKING FOR a suitable Good looking Sunni Muslim boy for our daughter 27 yrs height 5.10 B.E.M.S. working in Ireland., Tall Boy with B E.MS from Chennai/ Bangalore working in Ireland/ UK.is preferred. For further information please mail to naseem.begum69@gmail.com

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN, 41yrs/170, B.E. software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai, CT–9500188067

VANNIYAR 42 BE CHN IT 1st Marriage, Looking for bride from a decent, educated family. CNB. 9840196320

AGE 46, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9498328263

B.E, 37YRS 5.8 Pillai (Sozhiya Vellalar) Employed & Upper Middle Class Family Seeks Suitable Bride, Star: Swathi (Caste No Bar) 9843252888

CHENNAI, KIND Fair Innoct Divorcee, 41yrs. Cent Govt Sports. 2L/Mth. Dr Family Need Edu Girl: 9884171419

TAMIL

HINDU NAIDU 27/5'11" BE, MBA (IIM) , 37L PA (MNC) with good Networth & well educated family seeks bride with similar background CNB. whatsapp: 9840857315/ ravisrivg65@gmail.com

SAIVA PILLAI, 36, Rohini, IT,35K pm, Madurai, Own House, Caste No Bar. Ct: 8056588515

YADAVA, 41 First Marriage,Pvt Ltd Chennai, National Head 18Lac PA Seeks Bride CNB/Divorcee ok :8610014920

NAIDU 32 B.Tech IT PGDM HR Chennai Seeks Naidu(Any) Working Bride Engg/ CA/ DR. Cell: 9444753417

56 YRS, Divorced, no child, Own business, Spiritually Awakening, Affectionate Man need same minded suitable woman Only Direct Ct: 8508851019

AGE 55YRS Divorce, Bank VRS, seek life partners/ bride bet 45 to 50. Caste/Religion No Bar. Ct 8939574245

MUDALIAR 28/175CM, B.Tech,MS working in Europe, Lithuania, seeks suitable Qualified Bride with IT or Finance. Ct 9444267104/ 9940074508

MUDALIYAR, KETTAI/VIRCHIGAM, 37, 171CM, BUSINESS 60K.p/m, seeks suitable bride. Ct:9884220959

CHENNAI HINDU SC AD 41 Unmarried Govt Banker seeks Suitable Bride Same Caste,Subsects Caste No Bar 9884030032/9710389812

SEEKING ALLIANCE for our Son 37/ 175cms, Good Looking, Doing own business (Trichy & Coimbatore) from an affluent family. Caste no bar. Prefers pet lovers. Contact: 9363336647

SAIVAPILLAI SIMMAM/ 31/ 175/ BE, MBA/ Pvt Sector/ PA 24L/ Seeks Educated Employed Bride. Ct: 9444436363/ 8248950499

DIVORCEE (MUDALIAR & Naidu) 36Yrs, MBA,Business, Chennai,50 Lakhs PA, only son, Elite Family,Seeks bride– Any degree/ caste nobar– 9840912588

VANIKA VYSHYA Boy, Chess Grand Master, 26,168, Kettai, Superintendent with Railways, Chennai settled, doing MBA, Nagercoil based, 7010758913

HINDU NADAR, 38yrs, 167cms, BE, Divorce, Elite Business Family. Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI 32 M.Tech (IIT), MBA(IIT),Punarpoosam,Short lived, innocent, unconsummated divorcee. Manager @ PSB Chennai.Seeks good looking Bride from decent family. 9830282090

HINDU SOZHIAVELLALAR 28yrs, Fair, a data scientist with a Masters degree, working in a reputed MNC in Chennai, Seeks a well educated, working girl from a decent family. He is responsible and values education and family. Caste no bar 9789891685

GAVARA NAIDU, 37/5.9', Sathayam, Kumbam, Midhunam, B.E., M.Tech., Ph.D, Associate Professor at Bhopal, Divorcee seeks educated Bride/ Divorcee with no issue. Ct: 9360654171

IYER, 51, Unmarried, MNC, 19 LPA, PG Pure Veg Bride, Divorcee / Widow W/O Child. Ct: 97909 94153

MUDALIYAR WELL settled parents seek educated bride for their Engineer son Chithrai 37, 5ft11inch own business Chennai Ph: 9884452926

HINDU NADAR Age 34/ BE, MS, Vegetarian Australian Citizen. seeks well educated, Beautiful Bride Caste No Bar/ No Expectation Ct: 99629 37761

SC CHRISTIAN 29/B.E (EEE) Cent. Govt.Job (S.Rly)75,000 P.M.Seeks Bride Govt.Or Pvt. Ph.&Whatsapp:7397674481

HINDU KONGU Vellala Gounder 37/183 Sadayam, B.Sc, MBA Job, Business 36L PA. Working Chennai Upper Middle Class. Suitable Girl any Degree, Any Caste in BC. Whatsapp: 9360323979

HINDU AGE 50 Good Facility Expectation Over 46 Very Comfortable For Un Married Faithful Life Partner. Contact: 82208 19962

09–01–1986, FEMALE, BE (CS), Mukkulathor, working in USA (IT), unmarried, Moolam Star (Dhanusu), Expectation: CNB, unmarried, Same qualifications, Age: 38 – 41, USA (NRI) preferred. +91 9962024635

ADIDRAVIDAR, AGE 28 BE (CSE), PVT 80,000/– Well settled. Wants Suitable Bride. 08122289871/ 9444139323

MUDALIAR, JUNE 1987, 5'8", MSc (Electronic media CEG, Anna Univ), MNC Chennai, 60,000 per month, Clean habits, Educated working brides only, CNB, 9940562947(W), 9840276814

MUDALIAR 28/165, Bharani 1, BE, MNC 12 LPA, B'lore based, seeks bride. Ct: 9845296635/ 8310246635

MUDALIAR 30/180 Handosme, MBBS,MS, Ramachandra,1200000.PA,Well settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED

Alliance invited for Software Engineer 34y, 5'11"h, very fair, Handsome Boy, Working in USA, Affluent, Hindu (Parkavan). Only Hindu Religion Girl, Caste no Bar, Beautiful, UG/PG Working in USA or will to go there can contact

Parents Native Place- Coimbatore City Tamilnadu

96778 83627

41Y, 176 cms, Fair,Athletic,Divorced, Masters from UK. Well settled in Chennai, Entrepreneur & Legal consultant, seeks educated bride Call : 9840234030

PILLAI/ SOZHIYA Vellalar 37yrs/ 173cm, BE, IT / Chennai, Sal: 60K Pm, Ayilyam Star, Kadagam Rasi, Seeks Unmarried / Widow / Divorcee Bride with or without child, Relocation Possible, Caste No Bar, Ct:9444664627

MUDALIAR 29, BE, MBA, 178cm smart 18 lacs p.a,well settled family seeks bride CNB,8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU NADAR, 25yrs, BE, Well do to family, Elite Family. Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 28yrs MS(US),Own Manufacturing Industries Elite family 9710093999/ 9710091999

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 25 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

DOCTOR, AGE:29 MBBS,MD, 1Lakh& Above (Govt) only son well Settled. Seeks Doctor,BE & Any PG. Ph:9087764577

44YRS, FREELANCER, unmarried boy seeks bride. Divorce, widow welcome. Location: Mumbai & Coimbatore. Email:naidu2002@gmail.com, 9443366363

BRAHMIN IYER 40 years Poorattadhi Bharadwajam, B.com., Dip. in Hotel Mgt. Working in Star Hotel, Chennai Seeks Bride 35– 38 years, prefer Divorcee W/o issues also Subsect no bar. Contact No: 9840215610

WE ARE a Tamil Hindu family, looking for an alliance for our son C. Dinesh, aged 30 yrs, residing in Chennai, working for a Bangalore based firm, height 5'8", M.S. graduate, Hindu, Iyer. The bride should hail from a decent educated family, same caste, 24–30 yrs old. Contact with astrological details: 7845419278/ 6385425992 / 9940164140 or email: chandru1053@gmail.com

IYER NAITHRUPAKASHYAPA Mrigasirisham 1982 born 6ft Manager never married seeks any Brahmin suitable bride 9444402146

BRIDE WANTED

Doctor, M.Ch., 35 yrs, 168 cm, Working in a reputed Pvt. Hospital in Chennai. Uthiram, Clean habits, Divorced, affluent family, Senguntha Mudaliar (CNB) seeking alliance from cultured, educated and god fearing unmarried or divorced girls of below 32 years with decent family background.

Ct: 94444 59841 / 95515 28622

BRIDE WANTED

BE MS (CS), 28/180 Smart, Good looking from a well-settled HINDU THEVAR family. A Product Architect – IT/Successful Entrepreneur & Founder of leading FinTech Based in Chennai earning 70 Lacs+/Yr. Seeking a kind, supportive bride (27 or younger) who values family and comes from a good family background.

Ph: +91 7845821205

Saiva Pillai 28/180, M Tech Research Scientist, Ahmedabad seeks Educated Employed Bride Contact: 9442649298

Seeking Proposals for our Son - Doctor - Urology Surgeon, 31, Very fair, Hindu, Gavara Naidu; Caste No bar. Contact us at 9884012558

Naidu, 28, M.E.Chennai, Own Construction Company, well Educated affluent family, Subset, caste no bar, Phone: 9841097110

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED

Wanted Hindu- Pillai Bride from a well educated, cultured, upper middle class background, for a Groom from affluent & business background 34yrs, MBA, 60L P.A, Own house in Chennai.

Contact: 8825884424 ggcbe500@gmail.com

Vaaniyar Chetty-38 Visagam 176cm MS(Sweden) Working Sweden 60L PA (Swedish Citizen & OCI) Seeks BE/ MS/ MBA/ MCA/ CA/ PHD/ Prof. Bride CNB. Contact: 98404 29799

Saiva Pillai 28/180 MTech Bio Tech Research Scientist Ahmedabad seeks Educated Employed Bride. Contact: 9442649298

HINDU Tamil 42yrs BE. ECE, working-MNC 1st Marriage knows tamil,english seeks well settled bride (groom willing to stay with bride's family) Caste no bar, NoBrk. 9361761224 / 9444707389

TELUGU

Akkini Krutartha, BBA, Aged 31 years. Father Akkini Ramu, retired Director General of Police, Orissa. Seeks Good looking and Educated Christian or converted Hindu Christian Girl. Contact: 9849695867.

RICH NAIDU, 34yrs, BE, MBA, Divorce, Elite Business Family.Seeks Suitable Bride Ct:9962791888/ 7094991999

AFFLUENT KAMMA 43 BE/MBA business with Public Sector handsome seeks good looking qualified bride. Sect nobar. 9444410207/ tvm1945@gmail.com

KAMMA NAIDU 33/180 B.Tech, MS(USA) H1B/I–140 well settled & educated family seeks qualified, good looking bride USA employed CNB. 9150268143

NAIDU 1994 born 186 cm BE MBA. Pilot with Indigo seeks fair educated Bride. Ct: 95000 57987, 74284 47958

NAIDU 28/180 Fair, MBA,HR in US Based Chennai 9.5Lp.a seeks Educated Bride from Decent Family. 9003153493

RICH NAIDU, 27yrs, BE, Well Settled Family in Chennai,Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:9962791888/ 7094991999

TELUGU Brahmin 1996/ Mulakanadu/ Kasyapa/ Revathi-2 B.E, MBA seeks Employed Girl Subsect no bar Contact: 91769 05224 / 98414 01224

BALIJA-2nd marriage- bride-groom-41y - pvt emp - salary 50k-tirupati - 7093722724

BALIJA Naidu Ayilyam/ Kadagam 30/ 180cm B.E work at UK seeks Qualified Bride. Ct: 99403 16508/ 93817 33497

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

SITUATIONS VACANT

FINANCE

✔ **ACCOUNTANT B.com, Graduates(2), Books Publishing co 3-4 Yrs Exp, Good Tally & Excel knowl. Email CV to, hr@infobells.com**

GENERAL

WANTED MANAGER

Holding experience of 3 to 5 years in the Financial Technology Company / Industry such as global payment gateway / integration / Mobile solutions. Send your brief idea / proposal & budget for thriving fintech business and detailed CV to

vacancyv118@gmail.com

Draft as per order dated 05.06.2024 (CCH-19)
IN THE COURT OF THE VII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
O.S No. 439 OF 2024

Between:
1. Ajay Nagaraj S/o M G Nagaraj, Residing at 28, Roper Crescent, Sunbury-on- Thames, TW165BA, United Kingdom, Represented by his Power of Attorney Holder Smt. Prema Nagaraj **....Plaintiff**
And:
1. Sri. M. G Nagaraj, 2. Ms. Divya Nagaraj, 3. Sri M. G Somashekar, 4. Ishan Somashekar, 5. Smt. Padma Ashok, 6. Smt. Sanchita Samillan, 7. Smt. Jancintha Lobo, 8. Sri Kiran Nagaraj, 9. Sri A. Ramakrishna ....Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 3 TO 6

To,
1. Sri M. G Somshekar, Aged about 64 years, Residing at 41 Tata Silk Farm, Kanakapura Main Road, Basavanagudi, Kanakapura Rd, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560004 **....DEFENDANT NO.3**
2. Ishan Somshekar, Aged about 28 years, Residing at 41 Tata Silk Farm, Kanakapura Main Road, Basavanagudi, Kanakapura Rd, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560004. **....DEFENDANT NO.4**
3. Smt. Padma Ashok Aged about 59 years, Residing at 41 Tata Silk Farm, Kanakapura Main Road, Basavanagudi, Kanakapura Rd, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560004. **....DEFENDANT NO.5**
4. Smt. Sanchita Samillan Aged about 40 years, Residing at 41 Tata Silk Farm, Kanakapura Main Road, Basavanagudi, Kanakapura Rd, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560004 **....DEFENDANT NO.6**

Whereas **Sri Ajay Nagraj S/o M G Nagaraj** has filed a suit before the City Civil Judge at Bangalore (CCH-19) in **O.S No. 439 of 2024**, against Sri. M. G Nagaraj, Ms. Divya Nagaraj, Sri M. G Somashekar, Ishan Somashekar, Smt. Padma Ashok, Smt. Sanchita Samillan, Smt. Jancintha Lobo, Sri Kiran Nagaraj and Sri A. Ramakrishna, seeking Partition, Declaration, Permanent Injunction & other reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble VII Addl. City Civil Judge at Bangalore, in person or by a duly instructed pleader **on the 24.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M** to answer the same, failing which the suit will proceed in your absence.

SCHEDULE A
All the piece and parcel of Sy.No.52/1 measuring 0 acre 27 guntas situated at Agara Grama, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:
East by : Sy.No.54, Sy.No.58 and Sy.No.53, West by : Sy.No.41 and Sy.No.42, North by : Sy.No.51, South by : Sy.No.52/2

SCHEDULE B
All the piece and parcel of Sy. No. 52/2 measuring 0 acre 5 guntas situated at Agara Grama, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:
East by : Sy.No.58, West by : Sy.No.41, North by : Sy. No.52/1, South by : Sy.No.60

SCHEDULE C
All that piece and parcel of residential building consisting of Ground, First, Second and Terrace Penthouse floors constructed at No 41, Tata Silk Farm, Kanakapura Main Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore 560 004 and bounded on the:
East By : Kanakapura Main Road, West By : Private property bearing site no: 24, North By : Private property bearing site no: 20, South By : Private property bearing site no: 22

SCHEDULE D
All the piece and parcel of the Sy. No. 56/1, Sy.No.56/2 and Sy.No.56/3 measuring 1 acre 15 guntas situated at Agara Grama, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:
East by : Bangalore Kanakapura Road, West by : Sy.No.58, North by : Sy.No.55, South by : Sy.No.57

SCHEDULE E
All the piece and parcel of the Sy. No. 58/1 measuring 0 acre 29 guntas situated at Agara Grama, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:
East by : Sy.No.56, North by : Sy.No.54, West by : Sy. No.52 and Sy.No.60, South by : Remaining part of Sy. No.58

SCHEDULE F
All the piece and parcel of the Sy.No.52/2 measuring 0 acre 5 guntas situated at Agara Grama, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and having common boundaries as follows:
East by : Sy. No.58, West by : Sy.No.41, North by: Sy.No.52/1, South by : Sy.No.60

SCHEDULE G
All the piece and parcel of Sy. No. 44/1 immovable property measuring 3 acres 23 Guntas situatd at Agara Grama, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the :
East by : Bangalore Agara Main Road, West by : Sy. No. 119 and Sy. No. 118, North by : Sy.No.45 and Sy. No.46, South by : Sy. No.43

SCHEDULE G1
All that piece and parcel of land measuring East to West: 84 ft., North to South: 40 ft. bearing Khata No. 66 situated at Sy No. 44/1, Agara Grama, Kengeri- 3 Hobi, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded as follows: Krishna's Property
East : Road, West : Krishna's Property, North : Road, South : Private Property

SCHEDULE H
All that piece and parcel of A Three Bedroom Apartment bearing No. C2 - 6233 on the Twenty Third Floor of the Building "SOBHA CEDAR" measuring Super Built Up Area of 1519.22 Square feet. Undivided 0.09% share (equivalent Sq. 413.67 ft.) Along with One Car parking space in the restricted common area of Basement / Ground Floor, in the Residential Complex known as 'Sobha Forest view" constructed in the 'A' Schedule Property, BBMP Khatha No. 22/24/1/24/2/24/3/135/C2- 6233. Now within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara palike, Bangalore.
(The said Apartment has RCC Roofing, Vitrified Flooring, and Wooden Door with Masonite skin finish and Heavy duty Power coated Aluminum Windows)

SCHEDULE J
All the piece and parcel of the Sy. No.54 measuring 0 acre 8 guntas situated at Agara Grama, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:
East by : Sy. No.55, West by : Sy.No.52, North by : Sy. No.53, South by : Sy.No.58

SCHEDULE K
All the piece and parcel of the Sy.No.61/4 measuring 1 acre 0 guntas situated at Agara Grama, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:
East by : Kanakapura Main Road, West by : Sy.No.175, North by : Sy. No. 176 and Sy. No. 184, South by : Access Road

SCHEDULE L
All the piece and parcel of the Sy. No.168 measuring 1 acre 37 guntas situated at Agara Grama, Kengeri-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:
East by : Sy.No.65 and Sy. No. 167, West by : Sy.No.72, North by : Sy. No. 169 and Sy.No.170, South by : Sy.No.72

Given Under My Hand and The Seal of This Court, This **12th Day of June 2024.**

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
M/s PRASHANTH, JAYAKUMAR AND SUBRAMANYA,
Advocates, office At Lower Ground Floor - C. Bharat Apartments, Fair Field Layout, Race Course Road, Bangalore 560 001.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court
Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients proposed to purchase the Schedule Property from **Smt. Jayanthi Shobha Rani,** W/o. Sri. Jayanthi Subramanyam and **Sri. J.F. Neville,** S/o. Sri. John Bosco .M, residing at No.5/2, PID No. 65-89-5/2, situated at 20th Cross Road, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Nagara, Bangalore - 560 076.

That if any person/s, Bank authorities, Financial institution/s, and BDA authorities have any objections for the proposed Sale transaction or Claims of any kind whatsoever on the Schedule Property may lodge their claims/objections with documentary proof **within 7 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this Notice with the undersigned, thereafter my clients shall proceed to complete the Sale transaction and any claims received thereafter will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing No. 5/2, formerly western portion of the property bearing Site No.5, carved out of Sy.No.77/4, of Madivala Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently situated at 20th Cross Road, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Nagara, Bangalore - 560 076, PID No. 65-89-5/2, comes within the jurisdiction of BBMP, Ward No. 176, BTM Layout, measuring East to West 20 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in all measuring 800 Sq.ft, comprising Stilt, Ground, First, Second and Third Floors, with an RCC built-up area of 3800 + 400 Sq.ft., floors having Vitrified Tiles with all the easements, rights and appurtenances attached therewith and bounded on:-
East by : Remaining portion of the Site No.5 (presently Site No.5/1), **West by :** Site No.6, **North by :** Private property, **South by :** Road.

M. KUPPA RAJU, Advocate
No.174/40, Lucky Paradise, Manvi Associates, 22nd Cross, 8th F Main, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bangalore-560 011. Mobile : 9845646449
Date : 22/06/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of the General Public that **1. Sri.V.Suryanarayana** S/o late K.Venkatramu and **2.Smt.Latha N.K.** W/o Sri.V.Suryanarayana, both are R/at No. 1244, 9th C Cross, Kavi Janna Road, Near Kamala Nursing Home, Srinagar, Bangalore-560050, are the full and absolute owners of the House list No. 31, Katha 3/1A of the Pattanegere, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, which is more fully described in the schedule below, having acquired the same from its previous owner Smt.V. Latha under sale deed dated 18.08.2000 registered as Document No.4476/2000-2001 Volume 2007 Pages 45-49 Book No.I in the office of Sub Registrar kengeri.

It is notified to the general public that earlier sale deed that is the sale deed of my client's vendor dated 22.11.1991 executed by C.Basappa S/o Chikkanagappa in her favour registered as Document No.5124/1991-92, Book No. I, volume 401, at pages 49-53 in the office of Sub Registrar kengeri is lost by my client. A police complaint in this behalf was also lodged with Jurisdictional Police Bangalore City vide Lost report No. 1108382/2024 dated 20-06-2024. It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned and they would be compensated accordingly.

The general public is hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with schedule property with any person/s based on the misplaced/lost documents mentioned above, it is at their own risk and cost and such persons would not derive any title over the schedule property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against V. Suryanarayana and Latha N.K nor the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of property bearing **House list No.31,** Katha No.3/1A, situated at **Pattanagere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 50 feet with building on it, bounded on
East by : Property No. 32
West by : Property No. 30
North by : Property No. 22
South by : Road

RAVISHANKAR
ADVOCATE,
No.42/1, Appu Rao Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore -560018

FORM-16
[Regulations 34(3)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
BSNL Building (Fourth Floor), Telephone House, Raj Bhawan Road, Bengaluru-560 001
WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
See Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 r/w Rule 48 to 51 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961
TRC No.2065/2017 in T.A.No.45/2017 (O.A.No.879/1999)

BETWEEN:
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd ... Certificate Holder / Applicant
And
M/s Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd & Others ... Certificate Debtors / Defendants

1)M/s. Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd., No.3/2, Kheny Building, 4th Floor, 3/2, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009 **Rep by its Directors. 1.Mr.B.Ravindra Reddy, 2.Mr.C.T.Kaverappa.**
2)Mr.B.Ravindra Reddy - Managing Director, M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd, No.437, VI A Cross, 11th Main, Raja Mahal Vilas Extension, Bangalore-560080.
3)Mr.C.T.Kaverappa, S/o.C.C.Thimmaiah, M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd, No.123/2,1st Floor, Puttana Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, Thippasandra, Bangalore. **...CDs**
4)Mr.Jakanacharya, Flat No.2, Ground Floor, Block -III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur, Hobli, Bengaluru.
5)Mrs.Gunjan Saxena, Flat No.011, Ground Floor, Block-III Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout/Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru.
6)Mr.Chethan Sreedharachar, Flat No.103, First Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout/Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru.
7)Mr. Deepak Golannanavan &Sanjeevini B Patil, Flat No.203, Second Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru.
8)Mr.Pravesh Singh & Suman Singh, Flat No.204, Second Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru.
9)Mr.Santosh Kumar Shetty, Flat No.308, Third Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli Bengaluru.
10)Mr. Bodapati Bhaskar, Flat No.310, Third Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli Bengaluru.
(Above Sr No 4 to 10 are subsequent purchasers as per ECs)

Whereas the above named Certificate Debtors 1 to 3 were ordered through the above referred Recovery Certificate to pay to the Applicant Bank (Certificate Holder) a sum of Rs.91,18,778/- (Rupees Ninety One Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight Only) together with further interest and costs as per R.C. till the date of realization and whereas the said sum has not been paid by the CDRs/ you.

This is to command you to attach the immovable property mortgaged by the Certificate Debtor No.2 as set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed or which shall be pointed out to you by the said certificate and unless the said certificate debtors shall pay to you the above said sum as per R.C. and the costs of this attachment to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.

You are further commanded to return the Warrant on or before 14.06.2024 with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed or why it has not been executed.

SERIAL NO (I) OF SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY OF RC
No.140 (Old No 46/7) No.002, 011,103, 203, 204, 308, 310 Properties Seven Apartments located at Skyline City, Block-III, Chandra Layout, Bangalore.
(The CH Bank reserve its right to enforce the RC against other flat in the above Block)

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **07.05.2024.**

RECOVERY OFFICER - I
DRT-2,
BENGALURU

FORM No.16
[See Regulation 34(3)]
By ALL PERMISSIBLE MODE

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)
No.4, Residency Road, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru – 560 025
Now at BSNL Building (Fourth Floor) Telephone House, Raj Bhawan Road, Bengaluru-560 001
RC/2065/2017
WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
under Rule 48 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LIMITED
Versus
M/S SELWEL EXCELCHEM PVT LTD & OTHERS

To
(CH 1) Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, 1st Floor, Ceebros Enclave, No.39, Montieth Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008, Rep by its Vice President Mr.Ramachandra Srikant **... Certificate Holder**
(CD 1) M/s. Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd., No.3/2, Kheny Building, 4th Floor, 3/2, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009
(CD 2) B.Ravindra Reddy - Managing Director, M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd, No.437, VI A Cross, 11th Cross Main, Raja Mahal Vilas Extension, Bangalore-560080.
(CD 3) C.T.Kaverappa, S/o.Sri.C.C.Thimmaiah, **M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd,** No.123/2, 1st Floor, Puttana Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, Thippasandra, Bangalore - 560072 **... Certificate Debtors**

Whereas (C.D) M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd & others have failed to pay the sum of Rs.91,18,778/-(Rupees Ninety One Lakhs Eighteen Thousands Seven Hundred Seventy Eight Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 9% p.a simple w.e.f. 27.10.1999 till realization with costs payable by you in respect of Certificate No. RC/2065/2017 drawn up by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)

Whereas (C.D) M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd & others was ordered by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2) who had issued the Recovery Certificate dated 04.05.2017 in TA/45/2017 to pay to the certificate holder Bank /F.I., 91,18,778/- (Rupees Ninety One Lakhs Eighteen Thousands Seven Hundred Seventy Eight only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 9% p.a simple w.e.f.27.10.1999 till realization with costs and whereas the said has not been paid.

Recovery certificate		Details (in Rs.)
Principal Amount adjudicated in O.A	:	91,18,778.00
Further Interest @9% p.a.(simple) From 27/10/1999 to 24/04/2017	:	1,43,65,448.00
Application Fee	:	1,50,000.00
Advocate fees	:	53,350.00
Misc Expenses	:	25,000.00
TOTAL	:	**2,37,12,576.00**

2. It is ordered that you the certificate Debtor as set forth are hereby prohibited and restrained until further order of the undersigned from transferring or charging the under mentioned property, in any way, and that all persons be, and that they are hereby prohibited from taking any benefit under such transfer or charge.

3. You are required to appear before the Recovery Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2) on **06.06.2022 at 10.30 a.m** to take notice of the date to be fixed for settling terms of proclamation of sale.

Description of Property
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

Mortgaged Property: All that piece and parcel of **land and Building situated at Plot No. 108, Prashanthi residential K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore** South 60'+120'/2 x 6.25' bounded on the North: Plot No 91, 90 and 92, South: By Road, East: Plot No. 107 and, West : 25' Road.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this date **25.04.2022.**

RECOVERY OFFICER
Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore (DRT-2)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
BSNL Building (Fourth Floor), Telephone House, Raj Bhawan Road, Bengaluru-560 001
See Sec. 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961
NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION
TRC No.2065/2017 in T.A.No.45/2017 (O.A.No.879/1999)

BETWEEN:
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd ... Certificate Holder / Applicant
And
M/s Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd & Others ... Certificate Debtors / Defendants

1)M/s. Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd., No.3/2, Kheny Building, 4th Floor, 3/2, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009 **Rep by its Directors. 1.Mr.B.Ravindra Reddy, 2.Mr.C.T.Kaverappa.**
2)Mr.B.Ravindra Reddy - Managing Director, M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd, No.437, VI A Cross, 11th Main, Raja Mahal Vilas Extension, Bangalore-560080.
3)Mr.C.T.Kaverappa, S/o.C.C.Thimmaiah, M/s.Selwel Excelchem Pvt Ltd, No.123/2,1st Floor, Puttana Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, Thippasandra, Bangalore. **...CDs**
4)Mr.Jakanacharya, Flat No.2, Ground Floor, Block -III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur, Hobli, Bengaluru.
5)Mrs.Gunjan Saxena, Flat No.011, Ground Floor, Block-III Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout/Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru.
6)Mr.Chethan Sreedharachar, Flat No.103, First Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout/Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru.
7)Mr. Deepak Golannanavan &Sanjeevini B Patil, Flat No.203, Second Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru.
8)Mr.Pravesh Singh & Suman Singh, Flat No.204, Second Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru.
9)Mr. Santosh Kumar Shetty, Flat No.308, Third Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli Bengaluru.
10)Mr. Bodapati Bhaskar, Flat No.310, Third Floor, Block-III, Skyline City Apartments, Chandra layout / Nagarbhavi Village, Maruthinagar, Yeshwanthpur Hobli Bengaluru.
(Above Sr No 4 to 10 are subsequent purchasers as per ECs)

Whereas in execution of certificate RC No.2065/2017 in T. A No.45/2017(O.A No 879/1999) issued by the presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bangalore the undersigned has ordered the sale of the under mentioned properties. Whereas, the CDs 1 to 3 failed to pay the dues as per the RC to the CH Bank, it has failed an affidavit vide document No 5962/2024 wherein seeking prayer for attachment of the schedule mentioned immovable properties mortgaged by the CD No.2. CH Bank also filed another Memo vide document No 6147/2024 wherein it has reserve its right to seek similar relief against other mortgaged flat.

You are hereby informed that the day on or after the fifteenth day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. you are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

SERIAL NO (I) OF SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY OF RC
No.140 (Old No 46/7) No.002, 011,103, 203, 204, 308, 310 Properties Seven Apartments located at Skyline City, Block-III, Chandra Layout, Bangalore.
(The CH Bank reserve its right to enforce the RC against other flat in the above Block)

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **07.05.2024.**

RECOVERY OFFICER - I
DRT-2,
BENGALURU

தேசிய மின்சக்தி பயிற்சி நிறுவனம்
NATIONAL POWER TRAINING INSTITUTE
(Ministry of Power, Govt. of India)
SOUTHERN REGION, BLOCK-14, NEYVELI-607803
Category- I Training Institute recognized by Central Electricity Authority

ADMISSION NOTICE

ONE YEAR JOB ORIENTED COURSES : 2024-25
ஒரு வருட முதுகலை பட்டயப் படிப்பு மாணவர் சேர்க்கை
மின் உற்பத்தி நிலையங்களில் பணிபுரிவதற்கான பயிற்சி

35th Batch — POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA COURSE IN POWER PLANT ENGINEERING
Eligibility- B.E/ B.Tech or its equivalent with minimum 60% marks in Mech/ EEE/ ECE/ E&I/ C&I,Power Engg. and related branches
For details contact : 94433 88423

2nd Batch — POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA COURSE IN RENEWABLE ENERGY & GRID INTERFACE TECHNOLOGIES
Eligibility- B.E/ B.Tech all branches or its equivalent with minimum 60% marks
For details contact :88001 24789

25th Batch — POST DIPLOMA COURSE IN POWER PLANT ENGINEERING
Eligibility- Diploma in Mech/ EEE/ ECE/ E&I/ C&I and related branches.
For details contact :94430 88015

Course commences from 12th August 2024
Assured Placement Assistance
Application Fee Rs. 500
Scan for application
10% course fee discount for female candidates

For Further Details Contact : Training Officer
Ph: 9205553596 / 9442980917 / 9952531974

TAMIL NADU CONSUMERS CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.
No 29/2 Arcot Road Saligramam Chennai - 600093 Email ID: tanco93@yahoo com

Short E-Tender Notice
Short E-Tender No: TNCCF/ET/2024-2025/01 DATE: 24.06.2024

Tamil Nadu Consumers Cooperative Federation invites online electronic tender for **"Purchase of 1600 Metric Tons of Double Roasted Rava in 1 kg packets,1200 Metric Tons of Samba Rava 1kg packets and 1400 Metric Tons of Semiya (Vermicelli) 200 gram packets" for The Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme.** Complete **SHORT E-TENDER** document can be viewed and downloaded through **https//tntenders.gov.in** and also available in **nicgep/app** free of cost **from 24.06.2024, 11.30 A.M onwards.**

The bidders have to participate online bidding with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-III.

Last Date and Time for Online Submission: **06.07.2024 Upto 10.30 A.M.**

DIPR/2046/TENDER/2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-18062024-254727
CG-DL-E-18062024-254727
असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2172] नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, जून 13, 2024/ज्येष्ठ 23, 1946
No. 2172] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024/JYAISHTHA 23, 1946

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 13th June, 2024

S. O. 2279(E).— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of NH766C in the stretch of land from Km 163.7 to Km 166.350, Km 174.120 and Km 186.550 to Km191.9 (Byndur-Ranebenur Section) in the district of HAVERI in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Assistant Commissioner Haveri Sub-Division Haveri in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE : Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km 163.7 to Km 166.350, Km 174.120 and Km 186.550 to Km191.9 (Byndur - Ranebenur Section) of NH-766C in the state of KARNATAKA

State: KARNATAKA			District: HAVERI		
S.No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectares)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Ranibennur					
Village: Harogoppa					
1	58/1A	Private	Wet	620 (Square Meter)	0.062
2	58/1B	Private	Wet	512 (Square Meter)	0.0512
Taluk: Rattihalli					
Village: Belluru					
3	189/2	Private	Wet	741.94 (Square Meter)	0.074194
4	189/3	Private	Wet	13.17 (Square Meter)	0.001317
5	190	Private	Wet	867.51 (Square Meter)	0.086751
6	191	Private	Wet	1766.83 (Square Meter)	0.176683
7	193/2	Private	Wet	1733.61 (Square Meter)	0.173361
8	193/3	Private	Wet	1244.38 (Square Meter)	0.124438
9	193/5	Private	Wet	2518.32 (Square Meter)	0.251832
10	193/6	Private	Wet	963.48 (Square Meter)	0.096348
				Total	1.098124

[F. No. RW/BNG/NH-766C/Km.40 to 194/20/2021/3A]
ABHAY JAIN, Dy. Secy.

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RV Institute of Management®
Approved by AICTE | Accredited by NAAC with 'A+' grade | Autonomous Institution Affiliated to Bengaluru City University
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one week intensive coaching for **MBA** now & get admission in your dream institution..
Mode of coaching **Hybrid** (Offline in the Campus & Online platform - Zoom)
Date **08th July to 13th July 2024 (One Week)**
Registration fee **Rs.500/-** (Includes certificate & study material)
Scan QR code below to register online & pay the fee

Placement Summary 2023	
Total no. of Companies (On/Off Campus)	68
On campus - 38 Off campus - 30	
Total No. of Students enrolled	178
Total No. of Students not opted for Placements	11
Total No. of Students opted for Placements	167
Total No. of Students Placed	158
Highest package	14.25 L/A
Median package	6.80 L/A

Time **9.00am to 2.00pm** (on all days)
SCAN ME
PGCET Code B252

Top 15 Rankers who join our institution from PGCET (within 100 Rank) will be given a merit scholarship of Rs 50,000/-.
Scholarship of Rs 50,000/- to Top 15 Academic Performers in MBA 1st year (above 7.0 CGPA)
Please call: 90089 60025 / 080 42540300, for more information
E-mail : rvimpgcet@gmail.com Website : www.rvim.edu.in

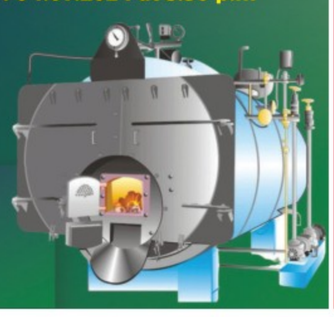
INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

MOLYKOTE AVAILABLE. 9841020614. Ex-stock; kishore@4pcorporation.com

KSE LIMITED
Boiler for sale

Make	:	Thermax, Pune
Capacity	:	3000kg/hr. @ 10.5kg/cm² Pressure
Year of make	:	2005
Type	:	Three pass Fire Tube Boiler with Accessories, Agro Waste Fired Boiler

Auction Date : 04.07.2024 at 3.30 p.m



9495420402
vimson@kselimited.com
KSE Limited, Irinjalakuda

BUSINESS OFFERS

FINANCE

IMMD BUSINESS Property Personal Project 3rd party, Low Int. 7305912765

GENERAL

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXII CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BENGALURU (CCH-73)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 25247 OF 2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LTD.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru- 560 001, And represented by its POA Holder Sri Pramodh G. S/o. Gurumalappa, Age : 45 years ...PLAINTIFF
And
Mr. V. Mukesh Kumar ...DEFENDANT

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

To,
Mr. V. MUKESH KUMAR
Aged about 39 years,
S/o Venkateshappa,
R/a No. 67, Kalena Agrahara, Bnagalore South, Anekal, Behind Gunnin Apartment, Bengaluru- 560 076. ...DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 8,59,370/- together with interest at the rate 24% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble LXXII Addl. City Civil and Session Judge Court, Mayo Hall (CCH-73) at Bengaluru, in person or by a advocate/ pleader on 12/07/2024 at 11.00 AM to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as "EX-PARTE".
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 13th day of June, 2024.

By the Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit,
Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Mr. K.N. Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No.177/1, (88), 1st Floor, Besides 12th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 002.

Order on mining leases in forest areas of Sandur kicks up a row

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

The first file that Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy signed after assuming office – pertaining to mining leases to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) and another to SAIL/VSIL in Sandur taluk of Ballari district – has raked up a controversy.

Initially, Mr. Kumaraswamy defended his decision saying that afforestation would be taken up in 808 hectares of land and he also had a word of advice for environmental activists to see the afforestation plan before opposing the leases. However, later, he issued a clarification that clearance was given by the State and the Union Ministry even before he assumed office and that he had just approved an already cleared proposal.

As per the recent order, two new mining leases – one to the KIOCL for mining in 450 hectares (over 1,000 acres) and another to SAIL/VSIL for taking up mining in 60.7 ha (150 acres) in Sandur taluk of Ballari district – have been given. This is in the same district which had caught international attention in the 2000s for indiscriminate and illegal mining and came to be known as the "Ballari republic" presided over by Reddy brothers.

Massive tree cutting

The lease for the KIOCL is for taking up mining in the Devadari village of Sandur taluk and that for SAIL/VISL is for mining in Ramadurga range of the same taluk. According to environmentalists, this would mean the KIOCL would be permitted to fell 99,330 trees in the forests of Swamimalai block in the Kumaraswamy Range (Devadari village) and SAIL/VISL would be permitted to fell 29,400 trees in Ramalai block in the Ramanadurga Range in Sandur taluk of Ballari district.

A file photo of a mining area that has been restored at Ramgadh, near Sandur in Ballari district.

The Samaj Parivartan Samudaya (SPS) and the National Committee for Protection of Natural Resources (NCPNR), which have fought illegal mining in the past, have demanded that the new mining leases be cancelled.

The contention of S.R. Hiremath, founder-president of the NCPNR and the SPS, is that the decision to award new mining leases comes at a time when the livelihood projects most needed for the development of mining-affected people are yet to get implemented.

Don't execute KIOCL lease, says Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre sent a note on Friday to the State's Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, directing him not to execute the mining lease in favour of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) and not to hand over forest land, till the company fulfils the earlier directions of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in connection with mining regulation violations.

CM seeks report

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who as the Opposition leader, had led a padayatra to Ballari during the mining controversy at its peak, has not made his government's stand clear yet, but has sought a report from the Deputy Commissioner of Ballari on the issue.

"In its order dated March 14, 2024, the Supreme Court said that the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), together with the monitoring committee and aid and advice of the oversight authority, should undertake a complete exercise in the three districts (Ballari, Chitradurga, Tumakuru) and the respective mining leases situated therein and submit a report before the court within four months. The court had said that the CEC should also examine whether a mining cap must be imposed in an area for better compliance and regulation and also mention any new form of regulation to protect the natural resources," he said.

Such being the situation, permitting the destruction of another forest area will defeat the whole exercise, Mr. Hiremath said, adding that using existing unallotted mines could be an alternative. He said that even if clearances were given by earlier State and Union governments, they should be reviewed.

A contrary view

However, Tapal Ganesh, a miner and activist who earlier fought against illegal mining in Ballari, finds no fault with the new leases.

He told *The Hindu* that all mineral deposits in Ballari district were in forest areas and mining cannot be permitted anywhere in the district if the reasons to oppose mining at Devadari are extended to other mines also. "If you oppose mining at Devadari for environmental concerns, you will have to oppose mining elsewhere in the district for the same reasons. Both development and environment are equally important. We should have a balanced approach," he said.

(With inputs from Kumar Buradikatti in Kalaburagi.)

From Page One

Darshan, three others in judicial custody

The police are also trying to retrieve the mobile phone of Renukaswamy, which was thrown into the storm-water drain to destroy evidence. The police are now seeking the help of service providers to get the call record details and data of the phone.

Investigation is also on to ascertain the source of the money Darshan had given to the other accused, which is crucial.

Fresh lead

Meanwhile, the police have obtained a fresh lead in the case and are trying to find out the details of the person who had visited the crime scene soon after the murder. The information was obtained from Pradosh during the course of the interrogation, sources said.

The investigating team also found that the instrument used to torture Renukaswamy had been purchased by the accused online and the document related to the online payment was in the process of recovery.

Safety of the accused

The police also raised concerns over the safety of the other accused and alleged that they faced danger from Darshan and his three associates in the central prison at Parappana Agrahara.

The police have registered a separate complaint in this regard and requested the court to shift them to the Tumakuru district prison.

The police alleged that the accused had also removed the clothes that Renukaswamy was wearing and destroyed them in a bid to tamper with the evidence.

Meanwhile, advocates representing the accused told the media that they would approach higher courts seeking respite to their clients through technical grounds and lapses committed by the police.

Suraj Revanna booked on sexual abuse charge

On the MLC's instruction, he had visited the farmhouse. After the incident, the MLC reminded the complainant of his political clout by taking the names of his grandfather, uncle H.D. Kumaraswamy, who is now a Union Minister, and also claimed that he had the support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

He threatened to have him murdered and his family eliminated if he complained. Mr. Suraj also allegedly stated that he had already murdered three persons. After the incident, he left the legislator's home in shock and disturbed. Later he messaged him, stating that his life had been ruined. He sent the same message to Shivakumar, whom he also knew.

Offer of settlement

As per the complaint, Shivakumar allegedly told him that he would get him cash as a settlement and asked him not to complain to anybody.

When the complainant wanted to visit a hospital because he was physically hurt, Shivakumar allegedly did not allow him. But he assured him that the MLC had agreed to pay him ₹4 crore to ₹5 crore. Again, Shivakumar called him over WhatsApp multiple times to threaten him, the complainant alleged.

Later, Shivakumar had also threatened him that a complaint would be filed against him on charges of extortion and blackmail. Later, he drafted the complaint addressed to the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police and marked copies to the Chief Minister, Home Minister, and the Superintendent of Police, Hassan.

When his response was sought in Bengaluru, Mr. Kumaraswamy refused to comment on the case, saying "Why are you discussing these issues with me?"

Alliance should stay strong and equal through all upcoming polls: HDK

He describes JD(S) and BJP as 'natural allies', praises BSY; Vijayendra says local body elections will further prove the strength of the combine

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The alliance that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (Secular) forged during the Lok Sabha elections should continue for all upcoming polls, be it the Mysuru City Corporation or taluk and zilla panchayat polls, said JD(S) leader and Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Saturday.

He was speaking at the Karnataka BJP unit's felicitation to the 19 leaders who have been elected to the Lok Sabha from the State from the NDA (BJP and JD-S), at Palace Grounds here.

Four Union Ministers from Karnataka were among the 19 leaders of the BJP and JD(S) elected to the Lok Sabha who were felicitated in Bengaluru on Saturday.

"There should be no cracks in the alliance. We are like brothers and there is no question of one being higher or lower in the hierarchy in this. We should prepare for the upcoming polls," he said. Describing the two parties as "natural allies", Mr. Kumaraswamy said that even back in 2018 (when the Congress and the JD-S formed a short-lived coalition government), his wish was to join hands with the BJP.

Back in 2006

Heaping praises on the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who sat beside him, he said that back in 2006, when the BJP and the JD(S) had formed a coalition government, the BJP leader had given him full liberty to function as the Chief Minister unmindful of the fact that he was much younger. "It was only in 2006 that people came to know about me," he said. It may be recalled that Mr. Kumaraswamy became Chief Minister in February 2006, with Mr. Yediyurappa as his Deputy Chief Minister with a power-sharing agreement. However, the government collapsed after Mr. Kumaraswamy refused to transfer power in 2007.

Speaking at the function, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said that the upcoming local body elections would further prove the strength of the alliance.

"The Lok Sabha election results have shown that Karnataka is still the safe fort of the BJP. It has also shown that people of Karnataka have blessed the BJP-JD(S) alliance," he said.

Blames it on guarantees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Saturday alleged that the Congress government's guarantee schemes were at the root of the price rise of essential commodities as well as the financial problems being faced by the government.

The government was "looting" the people to keep the guarantee schemes alive, he said. Similar arguments were made by BJP leaders, who sought to blame the Congress, which has been blaming Central policies for price rise.

Kamala Hampana passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kamala Hampana, 89, one of the prominent women writers in Kannada, passed away on Saturday at her residence at Rajajinagar here due to age-related causes.

She is survived by her litterateur-husband Hampa Nagarajaiah, two daughters, and a son.

Over 60 books

Born in Devanahalli on October 28, 1935, Ms. Hampana was an academic, researcher, and teacher, apart from a writer. She published over 60 books in Kannada across various genres and two books in English – *Attimabbe and Chalukyas* and *Jainism and Other Essays* – in her career spanning 60 years. She also brought out nine research documents, including *Thuranga Bharata - Ondu Addhyayana* and *Adharsha Jaina Mahileyaru*.

She had been conferred the government's prestigious Dana Chintamani Attimabbe award and Kannada University's Nadoja award for her works.

"Kamala's major contributions were to Jain, Dalit, and women's literature. She consistently contributed in this area from the

Kamala Hampana

The writer and researcher was a recipient of Dana Chintamani Attimabbe award and Nadoja

1980s. The way she and Hampa Nagarajaiah lived as a couple is a model to everyone else in society. They were probably one of the greatest couples of this century," said Purushottama Bilimale, writer, chairman of the Kannada Development Authority and former Kannada professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre for Indian Languages.

Kamalabhinandana, a felicitation volume of Ms. Hampana, was published in 1985. Speaking about it, Mr. Bilimale said, "That was an example of how felicitation documents should be. The book had nothing about her, but reviews of other famous books of the time."

Many political leaders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, took to X, to convey their respects to Ms. Hampana. "I am saddened by the unexpected death of veteran writer Dr. Kamala Hampana. Along with her literary work, Dr. Kamala was also popular for her research and teaching. She wished good for all in her life. I also share the grief of Dr. Hampa Nagarajaiah and his family," he said.

Her mortal remains were kept at Samsa open-air auditorium for public viewing until 3 p.m. As per her wishes, Ms. Hampana's body was donated to M.S. Ramaiah Hospital for medical research.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

D M CHANDRAN (69), Retired Senior Supervisor, Despatch, The Hindu, Bengaluru passed away on 14/06/2024 Address: Flat No: 202, 2nd floor, Rashmi building, 9th Cross, 10th Main, 4 Block, Hennur cross, HBR Layout, Bengaluru-560043. Ct: 9035990252

State govt. approves 64 business projects worth ₹3,587.6 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has approved 64 new business projects that involve an investment of ₹3,587.67 crore and have the potential to create 13,896 jobs across the State.

The projects were cleared by the 146th State-Level Single Window Clearance Committee (SLSWCC), chaired by Minister for Large, Medium Industries, and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil on Friday.

Some of the sizeable approvals include proposals from International Battery Company India and River Mobility, which plan to invest ₹390 crore and ₹306.9 crore, respectively.

Equitable investment

Mr. Patil said these projects would promote equitable investment across various regions of the State, particularly benefiting the districts of North Karnataka.

He noted that the committee approved 13 major large and medium projects with capital investments exceeding ₹50 crore, amounting to ₹2,046.39 crore and expected to create employment for around 7,199 people.

Additionally, 47 new projects with investments ranging from ₹15 crore to ₹50 crore were approved, totalling ₹1,058.55 crore and anticipated to generate approximately 6,547 jobs.

Four additional capital investment schemes, amounting to ₹482.73 crore, were also approved, which will create employment opportunities for about 150 people, he added.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम खण्डवा

पता-आजाद भवन टाउन हॉल खण्डवा, 450001 दूरभाष-07332223523 ईमेल-commkhandwa@mpurban.gov.in
क्रमांक: क/रा.बा./32/2024 खण्डवा, दिनांक 19/06/2024

द्वितीय ई-निविदा विज्ञप्ति

निगम स्वामित्व की नीचे वर्णित सपत्तियों को मध्यप्रदेश अचल अंतरण नियत 2016 के प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत न्यूनतम आरक्षित मूल्य एवं निर्धारित वार्षिक भू-भाटक (लीज रेट) पर आरक्षण नियमों का पालन करते हुये 30 वर्ष की लीज पर आवंटन किये जाने हेतु अधिकतम राशि की प्रस्थापना (निविदा ऑफर) ऑनलाइन टेंडर कम ऑक्शन पद्धति से आमंत्रण की जाती है।

संपत्ति विवरण: पुराना बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया भवन ईतवारा बाजार मण्डी शाखा खण्डवा

क्र	ई-निविदा क्रमांक	भवन	आरक्षण	भवन का क्षेत्रफल	आरक्षित (ऑफसेट) मूल्य	प्रतिभूति राशि (अमानत राशि)
1	2024_UAD_351854_1	पुराना बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया भवन ईतवारा बाजार मण्डी शाखा खण्डवा	अनारक्षित	133.13 वर्ग मीटर (लगभग 1433 sq. ft.)	380 लाख	5,00,000/-

निविदा ऑनलाइन क्रय तथा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 03-07-2024 सायं 06.00 बजे तक।

1. आरक्षण की स्थिति एवं विस्तृत शर्तें जिसमे अनुबंध की व्यापक शर्तें भी शामिल है, का अवलोकन कार्यालयीन समय में नगर पालिक निगम की राजस्व शाखा में किया जा सकता है।
2. न्यूनतम आरक्षित मूल्य से काम राशि की निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। प्राप्त निविदा ऑफर स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार आयुक्त न.पा.नि. खंडवा के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।
3. निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन www.mptenders.gov.in पर ही प्रदर्शित किया जावेगा पृथक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जावेगा।

आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम खण्डवा
खण्डवा, दिनांक 19/06/2024

YSRCP office razed in A.P.; party cries foul

Brought to ground: The officials demolishing the YSRCP office building in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. G.N. RAO

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

An under-construction office building of the YSRCP, allegedly occupying 870.4 square metres illegally within the boat yard compound near the Prakasam barrage at Sitanagaram in Guntur, was demolished by officials of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority on Saturday.

The YSRCP had earlier filed a writ petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court and sought issuance of orders to the State government, the APCRDA and the MTMC not to take any coercive action against the structure until the case hearing was completed.

"The court had ordered a halt to any demolition activity. However, the CRDA proceeded with the demolition, potentially amounting to contempt of court," the party said in a statement on Saturday.

The CRDA authorities were not reachable for comment.

Utilise services of retired IAS officers instead of MNC: MP

Karnataka should rope in experienced and retired officers with high integrity to get ideas and make efforts to mop up additional revenue to the State exchequer, says Lahar Singh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Senior BJP leader and MP Lahar Singh Siroya has suggested to the Congress government in Karnataka to utilise the services of experienced and retired officers with high integrity to get ideas and make efforts to mop up additional revenue to the State exchequer.

Mr. Siroya on X said, "If the Karnataka government needed bright ideas to expand its revenue resources, there was enough talent inside the State to do so." The government should rope in the services of retired IAS officers to generate ideas and mobilise more revenue to the State, he said, suggesting names of I.S.N. Prasad, Chiranjiv Singh, V. Balasubramanian, Sudhakar Rao, and M.R. Srinivasa Murthy, among others.

Lahar Singh Siroya, BJP MP

This comes in the context where the Opposition BJP has lashed out at the State government for hiring the services of Boston Consulting Group India Pvt. Ltd. for bringing in investments under the 'Invest Karnataka 2025' initiative. The BJP leader asked, "Why waste money on an MNC for revenue-generating ideas when you have retired officers with integrity?"

He also said the government should consider rolling back of guarantees for the long-term benefit of the State.

The MLC said, "The current Finance Secretary, L.K. Ateeq, is also Principal Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office. How can he be critical and impartial? It appears from the outside that the two roles he holds create a conflict of interest."

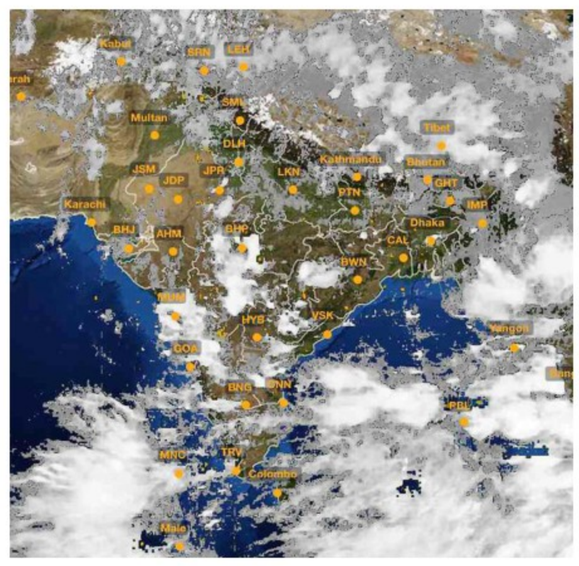
Deputy Chief Minister defends move

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has defended the government's decision to rope in the consulting group. "The Central government and other States have done it in the past. We too have sought suggestions on revenue augmentation. What is wrong with it?"

"We are seriously looking at augmenting revenue and not mortgaging government property like the BJP did. What we are doing is in the interests of the State and its people," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	17	34.4	26.6	Kozhikode	21	32.6	24.1
Ahmedabad	—	40.8	28.8	Kurnool	0.1	35.0	27.2
Aizawl	98	31.9	23.1	Lucknow	—	39.8	30.4
Allahabad	—	41.4	29.1	Madurai	—	39.1	25.1
Bengaluru	—	28.6	21.0	Mangaluru	26	29.0	22.2
Bhopal	2	35.5	25.0	Mumbai	9	31.9	26.0
Bhubaneswar	0.2	35.0	25.4	Mysuru	1.6	—	—
Chandigarh	—	39.4	26.7	New Delhi	4	39.4	28.6
Chennai	—	36.6	28.1	Patna	—	38.7	29.4
Coimbatore	—	32.4	23.0	Port Blair	27	29.0	24.4
Dehradun	12	37.2	23.8	Puducherry	0.8	37.8	27.7
Gangtok	18	23.2	18.0	Pune	1.6	33.4	24.5
Goa	19	29.2	25.0	Raipur	0.2	32.2	24.6
Guwahati	—	35.0	27.0	Ranchi	10	33.2	24.4
Hubballi	—	30.0	23.0	Shillong	0.1	24.8	17.6
Hyderabad	—	32.5	24.8	Shimla	2.6	28.6	18.8
Imphal	2	28.1	18.1	Srinagar	1	24.8	14.5
Jaipur	15	38.0	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	38	30.7	23.6
Kochi	0.4	29.2	25.0	Tiruchi	—	35.3	26.6
Kohima	1	23.9	18.4	Vijayawada	0.1	35.4	27.2
Kolkata	—	34.8	28.3	Visakhapatnam	3	32.4	26.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.17	.43	.49	116	104	
Bengaluru	.14	.22	.80	41	53	
Chennai	5	7	102	66	61	
Delhi	.21	.62	.81	221	239	
Hyderabad	7	.40	.61	44	71	
Kolkata	6	.30	.29	35	50	
Lucknow	9	.12	.21	139	117	
Mumbai	8	.29	.36	59	101	
Pune	—	.34	.99	70	63	
Visakhapatnam	8	.52	.21	38	80	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baddi, Himachal Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 274 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Southern Railway suspends loco pilots for 46-hour 'rest'

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

In an unprecedented move, Southern Railway has suspended at least 29 loco pilots and assistant loco pilots and initiated disciplinary action against many others for taking a 46-hour break from duty.

Trade unions say the action was taken after the loco pilots took the mandatory 16-hour rest on return from outstation trip, along with their weekly off or periodic rest of 30 hours.

After several protests and representations demanding implementation of the rest schedule as per rules went unheeded, the loco pilots launched a protest on June 1, by availing headquarters rest (16 hours), along with weekly off (30 hours).

Though most of the suspensions were revoked in a few days pending disciplinary action, the All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) says the agitation would be intensified.

The loco pilots launched a protest on June 1 by taking 16-hour rest along with their weekly offs. FILE PHOTO

The suspension of loco pilots comes at a time when there are thousands of vacancies in the safety categories, especially of loco pilots, which forced the Railways to notify recruitment of 18,799 posts of assistant loco pilots, more so, against the backdrop of increasing train accidents.

AILRSA central organising secretary V. Balachandran said, "There were clear-cut orders by the Ministry of Labour in 2001 and the Karnataka High Court in 2012 that we are entitled to headquarters rest (16 hours) and periodic rest (30 hours)."

Railway's response

Southern Railway Chief Public Relations Officer M. Senthamil Selvan said the loco pilots were rostered for eight hours of duty followed by eight hours of rest on outstation duty or 16 hours of rest at home station as per the Hours of Employment Regulations.

They were also given 30 hours of rest at home station, four times a month.

Asked if it was true that the staff had not been allowed to take 46 hours of rest despite a court order, Mr. Selvam said there was no provision to give 16+30 hours of rest.

INBRIEF

Ayyanna Patrudu elected Speaker of A.P. Assembly

Narsipatnam MLA Ch. Ayyanna Patrudu was unanimously elected Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Saturday in the absence of any other contestant for the coveted post. *Pro tem* Speaker Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary declared Mr. Patrudu elected unopposed and invited him to take his chair on the Speaker's podium. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan and Ministers K. Atchannaidu and Y. Satya Kumar escorted Mr. Patrudu to his chair amidst thumping of desks by the TDP, Janasena Party and the BJP MLAs.

Upset at daughter joining govt. school, man kills her

The missing case of six-year-old Pavani, which was reported on Thursday, took a tragic twist with the police retrieving her body from a well close to the bus station in Narpala in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. The girl's father, Ganesh, who lodged a missing complaint, reportedly turned out to be the accused. Investigation revealed that he had differences with his wife over their daughter's admission to the school. Ganesh wanted her to join a private school, which was objected to by his wife, leaning toward a government school.

Tiger found dead in Kollegal division of BRT Tiger Reserve

A tiger was found dead in the Kollegal Wildlife Division of Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve on Friday. The authorities who reached the spot near Lokkanahalli West beat apprised themselves of the situation and concluded that the death was due to natural causes. It was reasoned that the claw and skin were intact and there was no external wounds of gun shots and hence ruled out poaching as the cause. It transpired that the tiger was a female aged around six years.

Season opener

Fiery contest: Snakeboats competing in the Moolam boat race on the Pampa river at Champakulam in Kuttanad on Saturday. The Moolam race will be followed by several races across the region and other parts of Kerala in the coming months. SURESH ALLEPPEY

People-facing Mass to continue as priests defy synod order

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A section of priests in the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese of the Syro-Malabar Church has refused to accept a circular by Major Archbishop Raphael Thattil and apostolic administrator Bosco Puthur on Friday ordering them to celebrate at least one Mass in the synod-prescribed format on Sundays and days of obligation from July 3.

Bishop Thattil and the Rev. Puthur have "cheated" the priests and the religious and lay community in the archdiocese once again, say the priests.

Instead of solving the dispute over the Mass, they have brought out a note that will light the fire of strife and deepen the division, says senior priest Fr. Jose Vailikodath, spokesman for priests' forum Athirupatha Samrakshan Samiti or group for protection of the archdiocese.

The circular on June 21 is seen as a climbdown for the synod and an attempt to calm agitated priests after they were threatened on June 9 with automatic excommunication if they do not switch fully to synod Mass from July 3.

The circular triggered open criticism from among synod members and groups of priests in other dioceses.

Kallakurichi tragedy: death toll rises to 55

The Hindu Bureau
KALLAKURICHI

The number of deaths in the hooch tragedy in Kallakurichi district rose to 55, with four more persons losing their lives on Saturday.

Thirty-one persons died at the Government Kallakurichi Medical College and Hospital; 17 at the Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College and Hospital in Salem; four at the Government Villupuram Medical College and Hospital; and three at the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Puducherry.

Undergoing treatment

A total of 159 persons, including six women and one transperson, are undergoing treatment in hospitals. The CB-CID police have so far arrested the bootlegger, Govindaraj, alias Kannukutty; his wife Vijaya; brother Damodaran; Chinnadurai, the prime suspect who is believed to have supplied the brew to Govindaraj; Joseph, alias Raja, of Sankarapuram, who had supplied the brew to Chinnadurai; and Ramar and Madesh for their involvement in the incident.

On FridayTamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin chaired a review meeting via video conferencing with District Collectors and District Superintendent of Police on measures taken to curb illicit liquor.

Red alert for three districts today; revived monsoon may bridge rain deficit in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Though southwest monsoon has been making relatively slow progress in the country after an early onset, the core monsoon regions in the southern peninsula have not yet witnessed a major spell with the majority of the regions recording deficient rain. However, the weeks to follow are likely to see some intense spells with changes in synoptic conditions.

There is a shortage of rain in all the core monsoon regions along the west coast with Kerala leading the table with a deficit of 44%. The State has received 257.7 mm of rainfall against the average of 463.9 mm.

Kerala has witnessed a 44% rainfall deficit as the State received 257mm of rainfall against the average of 463.9 mm. MAHINSHA S.

On the other hand, rain shadow regions in the southern peninsula, such as parts of Tamil Nadu, interior Karnataka, and coastal Andhra Pradesh, received some good spells triggered by thunderstorm activities, recording excess rainfall. The trough of low pressure that ran off the Karnataka and Kerala coasts until Friday has now extended between the south Maharashtra and north Kerala coasts. The shallow trough, which used to draw in a large amount of moisture from the Arabian Sea, is likely to trigger some intense spells along the west coast, including in Kerala, in the coming days.

Orange alert

The India Meteorological Department issued a red alert for extreme heavy rainfall of above 204.4 mm in 24 hours for Kozhikode, Wayanad, and Kannur on Sunday. An orange alert warning of very heavy rain has also been forecast for Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, and Kasaragod and an yellow alert for the remaining districts, indicating isolated heavy rain.

From Page One

Govt. removes NTA chief, hands over probe to CBI

Unlike the NEET-UG, which was conducted by the NTA, an autonomous body under the Education Ministry, the NEET-PG is conducted by the National Board of Examinations, an autonomous body under the Health Ministry. In a statement issued late on Saturday night, the Health Ministry said that, given the recent allegations, it had decided to "undertake a thorough assessment of the robustness of processes of NEET-PG" and thus postponed the examination due to be held the next morning, promising to set fresh dates soon.

Regretting the inconvenience caused to candidates, the Health Ministry said it took the decision in the "best interest of the students" and to "maintain the sanctity of the examination process".

An hour earlier, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet issued a notice giving additional charge of the NTA to Pradeep Singh Kharola, chairman and managing director of the India Trade Promotion Organization, until the appointment of a regular incumbent. It added that Mr. Singh, the current DG, has been placed on "compulsory wait" in the Department of Personnel & Training.

Assailed on all sides, the Education Ministry said the new expert panel is being set up to "ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations" through the NTA. It is "the first in a series of steps to improve the examination process", according to a post on X by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The expert panel has been mandated with assessing the NTA's current grievance redressal mechanism, identifying areas of improvement, and making recommendations for enhanced efficiency.

The Nationalist Congress Party called the NEET-PG postponement a "failure" on the part of the Union government. "By sacking the NTA DG (Exam Body Chief), Union Education Minister Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan cannot absolve himself from his failure in doing his duty. He should also step down as Minister and accept accountability for all the mess and malpractices in the examination process in our country," the NCP said.

The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association called the postponement of the PG examination "a shame". Student leader Aishe Ghosh, former president of the Students' Union of Jawaharlal Nehru University, said, "The entire system of 'One Nation, One Exam' has collapsed. If Dharmendra Pradhan has taken moral responsibility, he should resign immediately."

Railway services, hostel stay exempted from GST

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Council's chairperson, said that members had agreed to roll out biometric-based Aadhaar authentication for all GST registrations across the country in a phased manner. She stressed that this will not only quicken the registration process but also curb the fraudulent use of input tax credits through fake invoices.

Future agenda

Apart from the GST exemption for hostel accommodation outside the campuses of educational institutions, which Ms. Sitharaman said would benefit students across India, especially those from rural areas, the Council also clarified the GST rates on several items. For instance, it was clarified that a number of products, including milk cans, sprinklers, carton boxes, and solar cookers, will now attract 12% GST, irrespective of use, material, or energy source.

At its next meeting, which Ms. Sitharaman said is likely after the Budget session of Parliament, the Council will take up pending procedural issues on its agenda as well as broader challenges. These include the rationalisation of GST rates, which a ministerial group is tasked with, and the future of the GST Compensation Cess after its expiry in March 2026.

New Delhi, Dhaka to begin talks on comprehensive economic ties

Sheikh Hasina was on two-day visit; the two countries will intensify connectivity and energy collaboration, says Modi; India to send technical team to Bangladesh to discuss management of Teesta waters; both sides sign multiple MoUs

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh on Saturday agreed to begin a dialogue on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, paving the way for broader economic ties between the two neighbouring economies.

In his welcome remarks at Hyderabad House, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the two sides would intensify connectivity and energy collaboration. He said trade between the two countries was being conducted in the Indian currency.

"Between Akhaura and Agartala, the sixth India-Bangladesh cross-border rail link has been started. Cargo facility for India's northeastern States has been started through the Khulna-Mongla Port. Both units of the 1,320-MW Maitree Thermal Power Plant have started generating electricity. Trade in Indian rupee has started between the two countries," Mr. Modi said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived here on Friday on a two-day visit, the first state visit by a foreign leader since Mr. Modi took charge for the third term on June 9.

The two sides signed multiple MoUs covering maritime cooperation and economy, rail connectivity, oceanography, health and disaster management and others.

Strengthening ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Elaborating on the MoU on railway connectivity exchanged on Saturday, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said that apart from the six existing cross-border railway links between the countries, the document focuses on "transit that they afford between different parts of India through the territory of Bangladesh".

"The connectivity essentially strengthens a very large part of economic infrastructure within Bangladesh. It's effectively a connectivity paradigm that benefits both the countries, both the societies, both the economies, very extensively," said Mr. Kwatra explaining that "sub-regional transit that Bangladesh would get to Bhutan and Nepal would be further expanded and strengthened".

It is understood that India will attempt to run a train service in the near future that will connect the northeastern States such as Tripura with West Bengal through the territory of Bangladesh.

Team on Teesta

Welcoming the leader of Bangladesh, Mr. Modi announced that India would open an Assistant High Commission in Rangpur in the northern part of the country.

Rangpur, which is strategically located between West Bengal and Assam, is also important as it is nurtured by the waters of the Teesta, which is a matter of protracted negotiation between India and Bangladesh.

During the event in Hyderabad House, Mr. Modi announced that a technical team from India would soon visit Bangladesh to discuss "conservation and management of the Teesta river".

Against the backdrop of stalled negotiations on the sharing of the waters of the Teesta, Bangladesh came up with the project to conserve Teesta and subsequently, the project drew interest from New Delhi.

The project is also likely to feature on the agenda when Ms. Hasina visits China next month, as China too has displayed interest in the project.

Medical e-visas

Mr. Modi also announced that India will start issuing e-medical visas to deal with the surging demand for medical visas from Bangladesh.

The two sides also signed an MoU on launching small satellites.

Ms. Hasina said she discussed "politics, security, trade, connectivity, sharing of water from common rivers, energy, regional and multilateral cooperation". She described her visit as "incomparable" as this is her second visit to India within a span of 10 days. She had attended the swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Modi on June 9.

Probe into 1985 Kanishka tragedy still active: Canada

Press Trust of India
OTTAWA

Investigations into the bombing of Air India Flight 182 remain "active and ongoing", the Canadian police have said, ahead of the deadly bombing's 39th anniversary memorial.

The Montreal-New Delhi Air India 'Kanishka' Flight 182 exploded 45 minutes before it was to have landed at London's Heathrow Airport on June 23, 1985, killing all 329 people on board, most of them Canadians of Indian descent. The bombing was said to have been executed by Sikh militants in retaliation for 'Operation Bluestar' undertaken by the Indian Army in 1984 to flush out militants from the Golden Temple.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner David Teboul called the bombing the "greatest terror-related loss of life involving and affecting Canadians" in the country's history as he offered "deepest sympathies, understanding and support to the families of the victims". He said the trauma it caused had impacted generations. "We must never forget those innocent lives lost to this tragedy and other acts of terrorism," he said.

India's consulates in Vancouver and Toronto have planned a memorial service to mark the anniversary of the bombing.

Dalit man's death in custody; BSP seeks action

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Saturday demanded strict action against the police for the death of a Dalit man who was lodged in the Firozabad district jail.

Akash, 25, was in judicial custody in connection with a theft case and died in a hospital on Friday. "The way a Dalit prisoner was killed in a jail in Firozabad district is very sad. The police should immediately release the innocent people who raised their voice against this incident," she wrote on X.

The police have lodged an FIR against 45 named and 50 unidentified accused for rioting over the death of Akash.

BSF to recalibrate deployment along Pakistan border in Jammu in the wake of terror strikes

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) is likely to "recalibrate deployment" along the Pakistan border in Jammu, in the wake of at least four terror strikes in the past few weeks.

In just four days, between June 9 and June 12, 10 people – including a jawan from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) – were killed in militant attacks in Reasi, Doda, and Kathua districts.

Barring two unidentified terrorists who were killed in Kathua after residents alerted the police, none of the militants involved in the other three attacks have been apprehended so far.

On June 19, the Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested Hakam Din, 45, a resident who allegedly harboured the terrorists who attacked a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi.

The 192-km International Border in Jammu is secured by the BSF, while the 740-km Line of Control is under Army control. ANI

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that though it had not yet been established how the terrorists entered India, it has been decided to place additional Quick Reaction Teams and surveillance tools along the Jammu border to keep a close watch on the vulnerable sections.

"We will have to pull personnel from other sectors and deploy along Jammu. Preparations are under way. Though there is heightened alert, a recalibration of available strength and their deployment is under process. It has to be a combination of technology and human intelligence," the official said.

Wave of terror

An analysis of the incidents found that terrorists first struck a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi on June 9. The next attack happened 89 km away at Kathua on June 11 at 7.30 p.m., when terrorists opened fire at villagers on being refused water. Hours later, around 2 a.m. on June 12, another attack was reported 56 km away at Chattargala in Doda, when terrorists were engaged by a joint patrol of the Army and police. This was followed by the fourth attack, around 8.20 p.m. the same day, when an encounter took place between terrorists and security forces, around 24 km away at Kota Top, Gandoh in Doda.

The 192-km International Border in Jammu is secured by the BSF, while the 740-km Line of Control – the effective border in the Kashmir valley and parts of Jammu – is under the operational control of the Army.

As reported earlier, since mid-2021, there has been an increase in targeted terror activities and infiltration into the Chenab Valley, comprising the Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban districts, and the Pir Panjal region, comprising the Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu, compared with the Kashmir valley.

Officials said that in previous major terror attacks in the region as well, the terrorists were yet to be identified.

Communal violence erupts in Jodhpur, two policemen injured in stone-throwing

Press Trust of India
JODHPUR

Two policemen were injured in stone-throwing, a shop was set on fire and two vehicles were damaged as communal violence erupted in a Jodhpur locality, the police said on Saturday.

Jodhpur West DCP Rajesh Kumar Yadav said the clash began on Friday night over the construction of a gate at the rear of an Eidgah near Rajaram Circle in the Soor Sagar area. The construction of the wall began on Friday.

Local people had opposed the gate so that there was no movement of people at the rear of the Eidgah. The subsequent confrontation turned violent later with stone-throwing, arson and vandalism.

The police dispersed the mob by using batons and fired tear gas shells. PTI

"The police dispersed people by using batons and fired four or five rounds of tear gas shells," the officer added. By late Friday night, the situation was brought under control. The police said people from both sides had been taken into custody. The police are still raiding houses in the locality to apprehend suspects.

Former *The Hindu* journalist Muralidhar Reddy no more

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

B. Muralidhar Reddy, who worked for nearly three decades in *The Hindu*'s Delhi Bureau and served as the newspaper's Pakistan and Sri Lanka correspondent, passed away at a city hospital on Saturday night after battling multiple health complications.

A widely respected journalist, Mr. Reddy, 64, started off as a city reporter when *The Hindu* launched its Delhi edition in the 1980s. As a political correspondent, he covered many major events for the newspaper. He also reported the demolition of the Babri Masjid in December 1992.

B. Muralidhar Reddy

In 2000, *The Hindu* posted him to Islamabad as its Pakistan correspondent and then to Colombo as the newspaper's Sri Lanka correspondent. An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Mr. Reddy had also worked with *Mainstream* and *National Herald*.

BJP should not avenge Ayodhya defeat by targeting saints and sages: Akhilesh

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) should not take revenge for its defeat in Ayodhya by targeting the saints and sages of the temple city. He added that the security of respected saints should be reviewed and provided security.

The statement comes after Ayodhya's Hanuman Garhi temple's *mahant* Raju Das's gunman, provided by the administration, was removed amid reports of clashes between Ayodhya District Magistrate Nitish Kumar and Mr. Das. The administration cited past criminal records of the saint for the action.

Akhilesh Yadav

"Uttar Pradesh BJP should not take revenge for its defeat from the saints and sages of Ayodhya. Security of those who are truly gentlemen should be reviewed and provided safety," Mr. Yadav wrote on X.

Mr. Das, who remained critical of local administration, had a heated verbal exchange with Mr. Kumar in the presence of two Uttar Pradesh Ministers, allegedly leading to the removal of a gunman. Afterwards, the *mahant* cautioned the administration that Ayodhya district officials would be responsible if any harm happened to him.

"If anything happens with me, the local administration will be responsible as they took away the gunman," Mr. Das told reporters.

‘If Centre adopts bulldozer tactics in House, it will be countered’

NDA and INDIA parties are almost evenly matched; the 2024 mandate is a personal, political and moral defeat of Modi, says the Congress leader; in the 18th Lok Sabha, the Opposition will have to be heard, Bills have to be debated and sent to the standing committees for deliberations, says the party’s Chief Whip in Rajya Sabha, adding that Centre cannot push through Bills by suspending MPs

INTERVIEW

Jairam Ramesh

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

As the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha gets under way on Monday, Congress strategist Jairam Ramesh, who is the party’s Chief Whip in the Rajya Sabha, talks about the Opposition’s plans. Edited excerpts:

The Congress is upset over Kodikunnil Suresh not being made the *pro tem* Speaker. How do you see this development. Do you see this as a sign of confrontation?

I think it’s a continuation of the bulldozer mentality. I don’t think that the appointment of Kiren Rijiju [as Parliamentary Affairs Minister], whom I know very well and is a good personal friend, inspire confidence that there will be a different way of dealing with Parliament. And the *pro tem* Speaker issue certainly has given further evidence. By all convention and tradition, Kodikunnil Suresh should have been the *pro tem* Speaker. There were only two legitimate claimants for this post: Kodikunnil Suresh and the other one is Virendra Kumar. And since Mr. Kumar is a Union Minister, therefore, it should have been Mr. Suresh. I think it is going to be the same bulldozing approach that they have had in last 10 years.

But now the Opposition numbers are quite different in this Lok Sabha.

One hundred per cent. The Opposition is not going to take it lying down. I don’t think that the Congress and the INDIA parties are going to allow this time. It cannot be the standard Modi-Shah [Prime Minister Narendra Modi-Home Minister Amit Shah] way of bulldozer tactics. The NDA and the INDIA group are almost evenly matched. We have the numbers and we know that the 2024 mandate has been a personal, political and moral defeat of a non-biological PM. That is the political reality.

This almost sounds like a threat, as if saying “we will not allow the House to function if you don’t agree to our demands”.

No, no. We have to be heard, Bills have to be debated and sent to the standing committees for further deliberations and so on. You cannot push through like the three criminal justice Bills, suspending 145 MPs from both Houses.

Take the case of relocating the statues of Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar. There is a committee on statues

and portraits, which was not even constituted in the 17th Lok Sabha. All the statues, without any consultation, have been relocated and given some grandiose name called *Prerna Sthal*.

These are all signals that the bulldozing tactics, my way or Mr. Modi’s highway approach and not Nitin Gadkari’s.

If they want to persist with it, well they are now going to be met with a counter bulldozer.

What are your main issues for this special session of Parliament?

This is a short session as the first two days will be oath taking, the third day will be Speaker’s election and the fourth day will be the President’s Address. But there are very urgent issues. The whole issue of NEET [National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test] is a very urgent issue. On July 1, the three laws that were enacted in the previous session of Parliament to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Evidence Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure come into effect. These were controversial and opposed tooth and nail, but they were passed when 145 MPs had been suspended from both Houses of Parliament. These three draconian laws were passed in a most undemocratic and brazen manner.

Will the INDIA bloc consider putting up a candidate to contest the Speaker’s election if the government doesn’t offer the Deputy Speaker’s position to the Opposition?

These are issues on which ball-by-ball commentaries cannot be given. What happens will be subject to discussion, negotiations amongst the INDIA group leaders. Mr. [Congress President Mallikarjun] Kharge, who has generally been coordinating the meeting of leaders and floor leaders, will be meeting from June 24 onwards.

We had the last five years, the 17th Lok Sabha was the only Lok Sabha in history to function without a Deputy Speaker. In the 15th Lok Sabha [under Congress-led UPA II], Karia Munda, who was from the BJP, held the post. Even in the 16th Lok Sabha, there was a Deputy Speaker.

All I will say is that the BJP and Mr. Modi seems to be in a mood to continue with his bulldozer tactics. This only strengthens our resolve and our determination to confront him far more forcibly this time than we did in the 16th and 17th Lok Sabha.

What about the Leader of the Opposition’s post in the Lok Sabha? There is still no clarity if Rahul Gandhi will take up this role?

There is no constitutional requirement to announce the LoP immediately. The Congress Working Committee (CWC) met and requested Mr. Rahul Gandhi to take over the position of the Leader of the Opposition. He is mindful of the sentiments of the members of the CWC. So, I think a decision on this will be taken by him very soon.

But usually the convention is that the LoP opens the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address.

I think in the next couple of days, it should get decided. But the sentiment of the Congress MPs is very clear. The sentiment of the INDIA parties is also very clear, if you see the warmth and the way they greeted Mr. Gandhi on his 54th birthday on the 19th June.

So, yeah the party MPs, the leaders have all expressed their views. And I am sure Mr. Gandhi is weighing all these factors and will take a decision soon.

NTA to hold NEET re-test in seven centres today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

NEET-UG candidates who were given grace marks for loss of time during the May 5 test can appear for a re-test in seven centres on Sunday. Six of the centres are new.

The Supreme Court has ruled that for those among the 1,563 candidates who opt to take the re-test, the marks in the re-test would be taken as the result, and their marks minus the grace marks in the May 5 test would be discarded.

The re-test is being conducted after the National Testing Agency cancelled the scorecards of these students who were granted compensatory marks for loss of time due to a delay in six centres in Meghalaya, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Chandigarh. Officials from the National Testing Agency and Education Ministry will be present at the test centres.

An NTA notification on June 13 said the re-test would be conducted between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on June 23. The tentative result date is June 30. On June 13, the SC recorded the Union government’s submission that the scorecards of the candidates granted compensatory marks would be cancelled. Aspirants have been protesting all over the country against allegations of paper leaks and marks inflation.
(With PTI inputs)

Six arrested in Jharkhand in NEET case; Mukhiya kingpin, says EOU

Investigators have found that a partially burnt question paper recovered from a flat owned by one of the accused in Patna was allocated to a test centre in Hazaribagh; some 25 candidates were given question paper at a school in Bihar capital

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Bihar Police arrested six people from Deoghar in Jharkhand on Friday night in connection with the leak of question paper of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to undergraduate medical programmes. A team led by officials of the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of Bihar brought the six to Patna for questioning.

The Deoghar police said five Nalanda residents, Paramjit Singh, Baldev Kumar, Prashant Kumar, Ajit Kumar, and Rajiv Kumar, and one Panku Kumar were arrested from a house near the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in the town.

Following a tip-off, another team of the Bihar Police visited Oasis School in Hazaribagh to record the statements of the examination controller and teachers.

In Hazaribagh, NEET was conducted in this school, apart from Vivekanand School, Xavier School, and DAV School.

Sent by courier

In Ranchi, the Bihar Police searched the premises of a courier agency at Kokar Chowk. Police officials said the question papers were sent to a few people in other States by courier. The police checked CCTV footage from the agency’s office and recorded statements of its employees.

United stance: National Students’ Union of India activists protest over the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG entrance exam results, at Doranda College in Ranchi. ANI

A senior EOU official told *The Hindu* that the police had found that a partially burnt question paper it had recovered from a flat belonging to one of the accused in Patna was allocated to a NEET centre in Hazaribagh.

“We wanted to tally the burnt paper with the real question paper and requested the National Testing Agency to share the question papers. After tallying, we have come to know that the question paper series was allocated to a centre in Hazaribagh,” the official said.

The EOU may conduct brain mapping and narco-analysis tests on the accused, the official said.

The Jharkhand connection emerged after the name of Sanjeev Mukhiya, believed to be the kingpin of the paper leak, surfaced. Mr. Mukhiya first received the NEET question papers and answer sheets from an unknown “professor” on his mobile phone, an EOU official said.

Serial offender

For the past 20 years, Mr. Mukhiya, a resident of Nagarnausa village in Nalanda district of Bihar, have been involved in paper leaks. His son, Shiv Kumar, a doctor, is currently in jail in another case of paper leak.

Mr. Mukhiya was arrested for leaking the paper of the constable recruitment exam conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission in 2016. A former Class 4 government employee, he became a panchayat head and has considerable money and muscle power, the official said.

His wife, Mamta Devi, was defeated in the 2020 Assembly election as a candidate of the undivided Lok Janshakti Party in the Harnaut constituency.

“We have got the information that Sanjeev Mukhiya, alias Lootan, is the person who first received the question paper and the answer sheets on his mobile from an unknown professor. He is absconding and efforts are on to catch him,” the EOU official said.

Paper distribution

The official said on the night of May 4, 20 to 25 candidates had gathered at a play school in the Khemnichak locality of Patna where the NEET questions and answer sheets were distributed by Mukhiya. MBBS students from Patna and Ranchi were present as “solvers”. “The answer sheets were given to those students who had already paid money,” the official said.

Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar, who have been arrested by the EOU along with Sikandar Prasad Yadavendu, could have been working for Mr. Mukhiya, the official said.

On Saturday, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav asked the EOU to catch Mukhiya at the earliest, and threatened to release photographs and other documents about the accused that may “embarrass” the Bihar government.

Enforcement of the anti-paper leak law a ‘whitewash’: Kharge

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday termed the enforcement of the anti-paper leak law a “whitewash”, and asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) could not evade its responsibility in “promoting corruption and education mafia”.

The Centre on Friday night operationalised the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which aims to curb malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations and entails provisions for a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to ₹1 crore for offenders.

In a post on X, the Congress president said 70 question papers were leaked in the past seven years, and sought to know why the BJP had taken no action so far.

“No matter how much effort BJP makes in the NEET scam, it cannot escape its responsibility in promoting fraud, corruption and education mafia,” Mr. Kharge said.

He said the law against paper leaks got the President’s assent on February 13, but was notified only on Friday night.

“When the Education Minister was asked about it in the press conference, he had said the law was notified... Why did the Education Minister lie that the law has been notified when the Ministry of Law and Justice had yet to frame the rules,” Mr. Kharge asked.

He said that on NEET too, the Supreme Court has said if there has been even 0.001% fraud, then action should be taken.

“Why is the Modi government not conducting the exam again even though the Education Minister has admitted to the irregularities?” Mr. Kharge asked.

Suspect questioned

The CBI on Saturday questioned a man in Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh in connection with the UGC-NET paper leak case, officials said.

The suspect allegedly posted a portion of the paper on Telegram Messenger. A team of the CBI Anti-Corruption branch questioned the person, whose identity is yet to be disclosed.

The Central agency registered an FIR into the UGC-NET paper leak case on June 20 against unidentified people.
(With inputs from Mayank Kumar in Lucknow)

OBC activists in Maharashtra suspend fast after 10 days

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

OBC quota activists Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare on Saturday ended their hunger strike in protest against attempts to eat into the existing reservation pie, after meeting a delegation from the Maharashtra government. They warned the Eknath Shinde government that the protest would resume if their demands were not met.

The protest demanding that the Other Backward Classes (OBC) quota remain intact ran as a counter to pro-Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil’s demand for Maratha reservation under the OBC category.

“We are temporarily suspending our protest. If our demands are not met, we will resume it,” Mr. Hake said from the protest site in Jalna district’s Wadigodri village.

He insisted that a “white paper” be issued to address objections to the government’s draft notification, which proposes issuing Kunbi certificates to Marathas who have already established their Kunbi status. Kunbis are an agrarian OBC community. This notification proposes granting Kunbi certificates to *sage-soyare* (relatives) of Marathas who have already confirmed their Kunbi status.

Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare with Chhagan Bhujbal at the protest site in Jalna on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The delegation, comprising 12 members including Ministers Chhagan Bhujbal, Atul Save, Girish Mahajan, Dhananjay Munde and Uday Samant, and Gopichand Padalkar, MLA, assured Mr. Hake and Mr. Waghmare of their inclusion in an all-party meeting on June 29 to discuss the quota issue.

Aim of reservation

Mr. Bhujbal affirmed that the OBC quota would remain untouched, and that action would be taken against the issuance of fake Kunbi certificates to some Marathas.

He said the Maratha community should seek separate reservations in government jobs and education, rather than claiming OBC status, stressing that reservation aims to address social backwardness, not poverty.

He also praised his Cabinet colleague and BJP leader Girish Mahajan for asserting that the draft notification concerning *sage-soyare* lacked legal standing.

Earlier in the day in Beed, OBC members blocked the Ahmednagar Highway by setting tires on fire.

They took to the streets insisting that their reservation rights remain intact.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
For Selection of Advisor cum Merchant Banking Firms

Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TGIIC), the nodal agency of Government of Telangana for development of industrial infrastructure in the State, invites proposals from reputed Merchant Banking Firms with experience in raising funds through debt markets and handling the issuance of Bonds. Interested and eligible bidders are advised to peruse the RFP and submit proposals.

The RFP can be downloaded from **www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in** from **23.06.2024.** Due date for submission of Proposals: **01.07.2024, 15.00 Hrs (IST)**. Further updates on this tender will be available in this website only

Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited
Parishrama Bhavan", 6th Floor, 5-9-58/B,,Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, PIN:500004,
Telangana Ph: 040-23237625/26 - Email: vcmd_iic@telangana.gov.in
R.O. No. : 108-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Date: 22-06-2024. **Sd/- VICE CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR**

BRIC a DBT Organization
NIBMG राष्ट्रीय जैवचिकित्सा जीनोमिक्स संस्थान National Institute of Biomedical Genomics

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

BRIC-NIBMG, a premier institute engaging in research in the areas of health/disease genomics and data science, invites applications from the motivated students for the admission to Integrated MS-PhD programme (2024) in Biotechnology specialization in Biomedical Genomics. Students with bachelor’s degree in any branch of Biological Sciences who have appeared for **JGEEBILS or JAM (BT) can apply online.** The last date of application: **01/07/2024.** Further information visit : **https://www.nibmg.ac.in**

INBRIEF

Another bridge collapses in Bihar; no casualties reported

Within a week, another bridge has collapsed in the Daraunda area of Siwan district in Bihar on Saturday. According to the local people, the bridge was 40 years old and collapsed due to soil erosion. As in the previous time, video of the bridge collapsing has been captured by villagers. The bridge had been connecting Patedhi Bazaar in Siwan and the Ramgarh panchayat in Darbhanga district. On Tuesday, a portion of an under-construction bridge that cost ₹12 crore had collapsed in Araria. The 100-metre bridge over the Gandak canal in the Maharajganj sub-division of Ramgarh panchayat collapsed early in the morning. No casualties have been reported.

Salman firing case: police trace new links to Bishnoi

In a major development in the case of gunfire in front of actor Salman Khan's residence on April 14, the Mumbai Police on Saturday said an audio recording had been retrieved from the phones of one of the arrested suspects. The forensic investigation of the audio revealed that it matched the voice of Anmol Bishnoi, the Canada-based brother of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. The audio file revealed that Anmol had been in constant touch with the shooter, a police official said. The police believe that the shooting was planned and executed by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang which has made several attempts on the life of the actor in the past.

Taking U.P. lightly cost us badly: Axis My India chief

Blaming an error of judgment for his exit polls going off the mark, Axis My India chief Pradeep Gupta has said taking Uttar Pradesh lightly in the last three phases of the elections cost it dear. Axis My India's exit poll predicted 361-400 seats for the BJP-led alliance in the Lok Sabha election, including 67 seats in Uttar Pradesh that sends 80 members to the Lower House of Parliament. But the actual results showed the BJP getting 240 seats, missing the majority mark, and the party winning just 33 seats in U.P. "This is a lesson to never ignore any State when it comes to exit polls," Mr. Gupta said in an interaction in New Delhi. PTI

Police arrest two for burglary at actor Anupam Kher's office

The Oshiwara police in Mumbai have arrested two men for burgling actor Anupam Kher's office on Veera Desai Road in Andheri West on the night of June 19, Deputy Commissioner of Police Raj Tilak Roushan said on Saturday. The burglars broke into Anupam Kher's office premises during the night, making away with cash and valuables amounting to approximately ₹4.15 lakh, officials said. Earlier this week, Mr. Kher took to his Instagram handle and provided details of the burglary. In the video that he uploaded, the actor said that money and some film negatives had been stolen from the property. The police have registered a case against the accused.

SUDOKU

	5	3		4		9		
2			3			5		6
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	7				1			
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4		5			9			3
		6		3		8	4	

No.SS6198 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	9	2	6	3	8	7	1
7	6	3	1	8	5	4	9	2
2	1	8	9	4	7	3	5	6
4	3	7	5	1	9	6	2	8
1	9	2	8	3	6	5	4	7
6	8	5	7	2	4	1	3	9
8	5	1	3	7	2	9	6	4
9	7	6	4	5	8	2	1	3
3	2	4	6	9	1	7	8	5

First arrest made in 'lynching' of 3 cattle transporters in Arang

Harsh Mishra sent to judicial custody; police say he did not have links to any right-wing organisation or previous involvement in any such crime

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The Raipur police on Saturday made the first arrest in connection with the 'lynching' of three cattle transporters from Uttar Pradesh in Arang, on the outskirts of Raipur. Harsh Mishra, 23, was part of the group that had allegedly assaulted the men and chased them, after which the three were found lying below the Mahanadi bridge in the early hours of June 7.

Additional Superintendent (Raipur Rural) Kirtan Rathore confirmed the arrest, and said that Mr. Mishra, a resident of Raipur, worked in a cement factory. A police statement added that fearing his arrest, Mr. Mishra had been hiding in a house belonging to a friend in Brosi, Durg district, and had locked the room from outside to mislead investigators.

Asked how Mr. Mishra was identified, Mr. Rathore said that he was among those who chased the truck in which the trio was travelling and local inquiries as well as phone location had established his presence at the spot.

Night of attack: The truck used to transport cattle when the lynching occurred at Arang in Chhattisgarh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Asked if the police had established how many people had been involved in the attack, Mr. Rathore replied in the negative and said they were verifying the different names that had cropped up during the investigation.

He also said that Mr. Mishra had no previous involvement in any such crime nor was he linked to any right-wing organisation, an allegation Qureshi's family had levelled repeatedly.

While family members of the three deceased men – Saddam Qureshi and his cousin Chand Miya Khan both from Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district, and Guddu Khan, 35, from Shamli district – said that they had been chased down and assaulted by a mob, the police continued to remain tight-lipped about the exact sequence of events of the night. With Qureshi succumbing to his injuries on June 18, the investigations had hit a fresh roadblock, even as the police had maintained all along that they were checking video footage.

Meanwhile, with police officials saying Mr. Mishra's custody was not required yet, he was remanded to judicial custody after being produced before a Magistrate court on Saturday.

Erred in not crediting ICMR as co-inventor of Covaxin, admits Bharat Biotech

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL), the manufacturer of India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, said it had made an "inadvertent mistake" in not including scientists from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as 'co-inventors' in patent applications filed in India and abroad to protect the intellectual property rights around the vaccine.

It would include their names in fresh filings for patent purposes, the Hyderabad-based firm said in a statement late on Saturday.

"BBIL has great respect for ICMR and is thankful to ICMR for their continuous support on various projects. Therefore, as soon as this inadvertent mistake was noticed, BBIL has already started the process to rectify it by including ICMR as co-owner of the patent applications for Covid-19 vaccine. Necessary legal documents are being prepared for it and BBIL will file those documents in the Patent office as soon as those are ready and signed," the company said.

Response after report

The statement came on the day *The Hindu* reported, citing patent-linked documents, of the ICMR being uncredited as inventors.

ICMR's role in the development of Covaxin was widely publicised by the government.

This was despite a statement by the Health Ministry in Parliament that the intellectual property rights of Covaxin were "jointly owned" by ICMR and BBIL. Other than that, ICMR's role in the development of vaccine was widely publicised by the government as well as ICMR's own leadership through multiple channels during the pandemic.

'In a rush'

By way of explanation, the company, in its press statement, said like other pharmaceutical companies working on Covid vaccines, it was faced with multiple challenges and "all organisations were in a rush" to develop vaccines and file the appropriate patents, prior to competitors or data being published in journals.

Bharat Biotech said it did not have "access" to its own agreement with ICMR that governed the terms of engagement between both entities regarding Covaxin as this was a "confidential document".

The Hindu reached out to BBIL to clarify this point but did not get a response till the time of going to press.

"Bharat Biotech's Covid vaccine application was filed in above circumstances and since BBIL-ICMR agreement copy, being a confidential document, was not accessible. Hence ICMR was not included in the original application. Though this was purely unintentional, such mistakes are not uncommon for the Patent office therefore Patent Law provides provisions to rectify such mistakes," the statement said.

A day earlier, BBIL gave a different explanation to *The Hindu* on omitting ICMR's name. BBIL had filed a patent for the "process" governing the manufacture of Covaxin. Moreover, the development of Covaxin was "fully funded" by Bharat Biotech and the ICMR had provided the strain and conducted clinical trials, a spokesperson reasoned in an email.

New criminal law Bill has no Section on rape of men, transgender people

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

The suicide of a 23-year-old man, hours after he was gang-raped by four men in Uttar Pradesh, has shed light on the soon-to-be implemented Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) that does not have any Section that deals with rape of men and transgender persons.

On June 14, the U.P. Police filed a first information report (FIR) against four persons for allegedly raping the man at a hotel in the Chiluatal area of Gorakhpur district. While the police booked the four accused under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) that deals with rape of a man, transgender person or an animal, alongside Sections dealing with extortion, theft, criminal intimidation, causing grievous hurt and criminal conspiracy, the case opened a debate on the future of such cases in the absence of Section 377 or its equivalent in the new code.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, advocate Karuna Nundy said that in the landmark Supreme Court judgment of *Navtej Johar vs the Union of India*, the Supreme Court had "read down" Section 377, and not "struck down", implying that consensual sex between people of the same gender and transgender persons was no longer punitive, but the Section was retained since it was the only provision that covered the rape of men, transpersons and animals.

> With the non-inclusion of a Section 377 equivalent in BNS, rape of men and transgender persons will become a non-offence post July 1
>
> **ANAND GROVER**
> senior lawyer

"With the striking down of Section 377 from the BNS, and with no alternative law in place, men or transgender persons who rape other men, transgender persons or animals will not be penalised for rape," Ms. Nundy said.

Expressing concern over the future of justice in such cases, senior lawyer Anand Grover said that in the garb of "decolonising criminal laws", the government removed Section 377 from the BNS Bill, which will reduce severity of the sentence once the crime is proven.

"In India, rape laws are not gender-neutral. Section 376 of the IPC only deals with rape against women and with the non-inclusion of a Section 377 equivalent in the BNS, rape of men and transgender persons will become a non-offence post July 1," said senior lawyer Anand Grover. In such cases, only Sections related to grievous assault can be invoked, which have far less legal consequences than Sections related to rape, he added.

Cases registered before July 1, under Section 377, will continue to be governed by the IPC while those filed after that will not. "Two legal systems will run parallel and cases of the same nature will have different punitive consequences," he warned.

Further, Supreme Court advocate Yashaswi S.K. Chocksey said, "When Section 377 is invoked, the intensity with which the case is treated is much higher when compared with a case where Sections related to grievous hurt are invoked. It's reflected in the urgency of arrests or the ease of getting bail. In the latter case, if the accused is not arrested, he can tamper with evidence and impact the course of investigation."

A senior official of the Delhi Police, who attended training sessions for the BNS, told *The Hindu* that in none of the training sessions were they instructed on how to deal with cases of rape of men and transgender persons.

Ms. Nundy also said that the non-inclusion of Section 377 would also imply that men who have committed anal rapes of their wives would also not face criminal consequences if the new code is not amended.

Mr. Grover said the non-inclusion would make animals especially vulnerable since those who rape them will go scot-free.

Those in distress can reach out to the 24x7 helpline: KIRAN 1800-599-0019

Stringent regulations could hinder growth of AI in India: experts

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

At present, India does not have specific laws addressing generative AI. ISTOCK

As India grapples with the regulatory landscape for artificial intelligence (AI), a sector which has seen rapid development in recent years, experts opine that strict regulations could stifle the country's burgeoning AI-driven economy.

Currently, India does not have specific laws directly addressing generative AI, such as deepfakes. It has instead introduced a series of advisories and guidelines to encourage the responsible development and implementation of AI technologies.

After a "deepfake" video clip of actor Rashmika Mandanna went viral on social media platforms last year, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) asked social media intermediaries to take such content down within 36 hours, a requirement outlined in the IT Rules, 2021.

Plea in court

In December last year, the Delhi High Court asked the Centre to respond to a public interest litigation (PIL) plea against the unregulated use of AI and deepfakes.

Deepfake videos utilise AI to swap the likeness of a person in an existing video with someone else's. Recently, concerns have grown around deepfake technology, as it can produce highly realistic fake videos that may be misused for spreading misinformation, creating fake news, or generating false narratives.

The petition said while technological development was happening by leaps and bounds, the law was moving at a snail's pace.

While the High Court is scheduled to hear the petition in July, the MeitY on March 1 issued an advisory saying that all generative AI products, such as large language models on the lines of ChatGPT and Google's Gemini, would have to be made available "with [the] explicit permission of the Government of India" if they are "under-testing/unreliable".

However, after the advisory came under criticism from experts for being ambiguous, on March 15, 2024, MeitY issued a fresh advisory, dropping the requirement of obtaining "explicit permission" from the government.

The latest advisory said under-tested or unreliable AI products should be labelled with a disclaimer indicating that outputs generated by such products may be unreliable.

Jaijit Bhattacharya, president, Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research (C-DEP), said the advisory is, largely, about following the extant regulations, with an additional qualifier that all AI-generated content that can potentially cause disinformation should be clearly labelled as AI generated. "This advisory does not really hinder the industry," he said.

Mishi Choudhary, founder of Software Freedom Law Center (SFLC), suggested the government "should be ready to update existing laws to protect public interest and [guard against] future harm associated with the technology".

Programme to fast-track traveller immigration launched at IGI airport

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on Saturday.

The initiative, designed for faster, smoother and safer immigration clearance, is likely to ease congestion at immigration counters. Other than New Delhi, the initiative was launched in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi and Ahmedabad airports in the first phase.

The Union Home Ministry said the programme would run on e-gates or automated border gates that would minimise human intervention in the immigration clearance process and would be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, Indian citizens and OCI cardholders will be covered, and foreign travellers will be included in the second phase.

The FTI-TTP will be implemented through an online portal and the Bureau of Immigration will be the nodal agency. To enroll in the scheme, the applicant has to register online on the portal with details and documents.

Under the process, as soon as the registered passenger reaches the e-gate, he/she will scan his/her boarding pass issued by the airlines at the e-gates to get the details of his/her flight.

The passport will be scanned and biometrics of the passenger will be authenticated at the e-gates. Once the identity of the passenger is established and biometric authentication is done, the e-gate will open and immigration clearance will be deemed to have been granted.

INBRIEF

Govt. buys 71,000 tonnes of onion for buffer stock

The government has bought nearly 71,000 tonnes of onion so far this year for buffer stock, out of the total target of procuring 5 lakh tonnes for price stabilisation and it expects retail prices to ease with the progress of monsoon over most parts of the country. According to data compiled by the department of consumer affairs, the all-India average onion retail prices stood at ₹38.67 per kg on Friday, while the modal price was ₹40 per kg. PTI

Deeptech start-ups count surges in 2023: Nasscom

India saw a significant surge in deeptech start-ups in 2023 with 480 new ventures emerging, making it the third largest pool globally, according to a report. However, technology industry body Nasscom and global consulting firm Zinnov, which prepared the report said, "Compared to start-ups across some other leading deeptech ecosystems, Indian deeptech start-ups receive a fraction of the median investment at every stage." PTI

Coimbatore's Propel acquires stake in Ireland-based Omega

Propel Industries in Coimbatore has acquired a major stake in Omega Crushing and Screening of Ireland to expand its market presence in the European market. Senthil Kumar Varadharajan, Managing Director of Propel Industries, said in a press release that the collaboration with Omega will enhance product development and accelerate its introduction of state-of-the-art crushing and screening solutions, especially in the European market.

'Just 2% taxpayers face CGST notices'

Sitharaman dismisses charges of harassment and complaints of too many notices being served under GST law by central administration as misinformed criticism; seeks to reassure assessees that Centre is committed to making their life easier

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday firmly asserted that the Centre's intent was to make GST assessees' life 'easier, simpler and less cumbersome', stressing that criticism about the harassment of taxpayers and excessive notices being sent was misinformed opinion as most of the notices did not stem from the Central GST (CGST) administration.

"I want to reassure the assessees that our intent is to make their life easier," Ms. Sitharaman said.

Making a point: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a press conference after the GST Council meeting on Saturday. PTI

"We are working towards less and less compliance and I want to underline the fact on behalf of the CGST that notices are not being sent left, right and centre.. Most often, we are asked why so many notices?" she added.

"Only 1.96% of all active tax assessees have been sent any notice from the Central GST... Of the 58,62,882 active tax payers, just 1,14,939 assessees have been sent notices as of December 31, 2023," the minister said, adding that States could send their own notices, but that was not something she was getting into.

Interest waiver

Meanwhile, the GST Council agreed to waive the interest and penalty on demand notices served under Section 73 of the CGST Act, for the period between 2017-18 and 2019-20, provided that taxpayers remit their dues fully by March 2025.

In a recommendation that should find mention in the Finance Bill to be presented with the Union Budget 2024-25 likely next month, the Council also suggested amendments to the CGST Act of 2017 so that the three-month period for filing appeals before the Appellate Tribunal will start from a date notified by the Government.

"This will give sufficient time to the taxpayers to file appeal before the Appellate Tribunal in the pending cases," the Finance Ministry said.

States seek tweaks to 50-year interest-free loan scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

States have urged the Centre to make some improvements in the 50-year interest-free loan scheme for pursuing capital investments, under which the government has proposed to give them ₹1.3 lakh crore this year, the same amount as in 2023-24.

Ministers from States made suggestions related to the 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment', during pre-Budget consultations with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday.

Ms. Sitharaman also heard out suggestions from State Ministers regarding the Union Budget, along with requests specific to their regions, and assured them that their ideas and inputs will get "due consideration... during preparation of the Union Budget".

Apart from several States' Finance Ministers, the meeting was attended by Chief Ministers of Goa, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim, along with Deputy CMs of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana.

"Finance Minister underlined Union Government's support to States through timely tax devolution, Finance Commission grants, and arrears of GST Compensation being provided for providing stimulus to growth," the Union Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

'Global textile industry worried about continuing weak demand'

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The global textile industry, including textile machinery and garment manufacturing, continues to be concerned about "weak demand" in the market, according to a recent survey.

'Key concern'

The latest results of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) Global Textile Industry Survey (GTIS), which was conducted in the second half of May, show that most companies pointed to weak demand as the main concern since the end of 2022.

Inflation, high raw material prices, energy costs, logistics costs, and geopolitics are some of the other concerns.

"These factors are weighing on consumer and business confidence and are holding back demand to a certain extent," said K.V. Srinivasan, president of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation.

The survey also revealed that the global textile value chain found itself still in a relatively poor state.

Awaiting improvement

However, companies across the board are anticipating an improvement in the business environment in the coming months.

The regions with the best business situation in May were Africa and South-East Asia, and except East Asia, other regions expect a better business situation in the next six months.

GRSE bags German order to build, deliver multi-purpose vessels

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. said it had signed an agreement with Carsten Rehder Schiffsmakler and Reederei GmbH & Co. KG Germany, for construction and delivery of four multi-purpose vessels of 7,500 DWT each with an option of building another four ships in the near future.

The vessels will be 120 metres long and 17 metres wide, with a maximum draft of 6.75 metres. Each can carry 7,500 metric tonnes of cargo, said GRSE, a ship building and repairing company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.

The vessels will have a single cargo hold, each to accommodate bulk, general and project cargoes. Containers will be carried on hatch covers. The ships will carry multiple large windmill blades on deck, the company said.

The company has been exporting warships since a decade. In 2014, the CGS Barracuda, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, built by GRSE, was exported to Mauritius. This was the first warship to be exported by India.

'Govt. must borrow at market cost, not at a subsidised one'

We must work towards eliminating it altogether, except for a minimum SLR for financial stability purposes; the RBI's liquidity management too should be informed entirely by market liquidity considerations and not by the government's public debt concerns, says the former RBI Governor

INTERVIEW

Duvvuri Subbarao

Prashanth Perumal

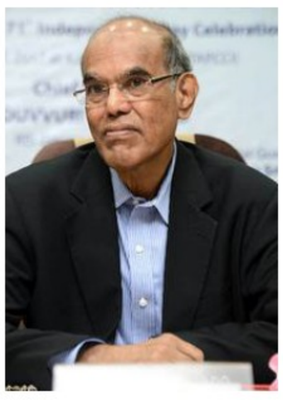
India needs to strengthen the rule of law to compete with the developed world, protect the independence of its central bank, and hold public officials, including IAS officers, more accountable, Duvvuri Subbarao, former RBI Governor and author of the recent book "Just a Mercenary?", argues in an interview. Edited excerpts:

You say the IAS is no longer "the steel frame of India" and blame corrupt IAS officers rather than politicians for this. Why?

The common view is that the IAS today is not able to perform because of political pressure. But the question is why should IAS officers succumb to the carrots being dangled by politicians?

They do that because when they see one person who is of a weaker moral fabric succumbing to a politician and moving up the career ladder, they believe that they can't afford to get left behind.

There are lots of reasons attributed for the moral and intellectual decline of the IAS, but I think the main reason is the perverted incentives; there is no system of rewarding good officers and penalising the



bad officers.

In your book, you detail the pressures you faced from ministers in the UPA government while you were RBI Governor. But isn't such pressure expected as the RBI Governor is appointed by politicians? What is the solution?

The government thinks of the RBI as part of the public sector system and treats it as part of itself.

But the RBI performs best when it is independent. The core mandate of the RBI is to maintain price and financial stability.

Delivering on this requires the RBI to take some decisions keeping in view the long-term sustainability of the economy even if inflicts short-term pain. But governments are concerned about the short-term pain and therefore tensions are inevitable.

The question is how can we manage these tensions amicably?

There has to be consultation between the RBI and the government, but in the end the central bank has to act independently.

Why do you say investors, when deciding to invest, care more about the rule of law than about free land or electricity offered by State governments?

When you ask investors what matters when they choose between States, they say, "even more important than sops is the rule of law".

Bad rule of law can be quite costly to any business enterprise. If you have tax inspectors or compliance inspectors bothering businesses, corruption, or if there is politicisation of labour unions; all this can add to cost.

We are already seeing investments go to States that improve the rule of law, not necessarily to States that offer more sops.

What is the basis for your disagreement with the view that the Indian state is weak and that we need to boost state capacity to promote economic growth?

Generally, when people talk about state capacity, they talk in terms of, for example, number of employees or policemen or tax inspectors or teachers per unit of population. And then they say in India state capacity is low because we don't have enough staff.

What I'm saying is that inadequate staff is not the main constraint. Our main constraint is inability or callousness to implement the rule of law. To give an example, is the problem of low achievements in education due to inadequate number of teachers or is it incompetent, ill-trained teachers? So, looking upon state capacity in terms of number of staff is wrong.

We must improve our system of rewards and penalties for government staff and enforce strict accountability.

The Centre's high fiscal deficit during UPA rule was blamed for high inflation at the time. Can the RBI tackle this by refusing to monetise the fiscal deficit?

The RBI does not monetise government debt after the FRBM came into place.

It does not operate in the primary market, but does operate in the secondary market and so it still can either help the government or make it more costly for the government to borrow. There is also the financial repression in the way of banks being expected to hold a minimum SLR, which makes it cheaper for the government to borrow.

We must work towards eliminating it altogether, except for a minimum SLR for financial stability purposes, so that the government borrows at the market cost, not at a subsidised cost. Further, the RBI's liquidity management should be informed entirely by market liquidity considerations and not by the government's public debt concerns.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: SE/PHC/MPM/12-16,23,28-29/22024-25, JJM-Malappuram District- **1.** Thripangode, Mangalam,Purathur,Thalakkad and Vettompts-37MLD WTP&39LL,20LLOHSR,Kavannur,Cheriyamundam, Urakam Balance FHTC & Allied Electrical work, **2.** JJM -Munniyur, Chelembra,Thenchipplalam and Vallikuunu PTS Balance distribution Work, **3.** AMRUT- Malappuram & Parappanangadi Muncipality. Construction of WTP And General Civil Work, **EMD:** Rs. 100000-500000, **Tender fee:** Rs. 8270-16540, **Last Date for submitting Tender:** 15-07-2024 03:00:pm, **Phone:** 04832974871
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-101-2024-25 PH Circle, Malappuram

महाराजा गंगा सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर
निविदा सूचना
विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा साफ सफाई कार्य हेतु अल्पकालीन निविदा जारी की गयी है, जिसके यूबीएन GSU2425SLRC00005 है। निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी **http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in,** ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.संवाद/सी/24/1081 कुलसचिव

कोटा विकास प्राधिकरण, कोटा
क्रमांक :- एफ 3/लेखा/24-25/880 - 900 दिनांक :- 18/06/2024
ऑनलाईन निविदा सूचना संख्या : 01/2024-25
कोटा विकास प्राधिकरण, कोटा की ओर से के0डी0ए0, कोटा में पंजीकृत उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों एवं राजस्थान सरकार के किसी भी राजकीय/अर्द्धशासकीय/स्वायत्तशासी विभागों के अन्तर्गत "एए" तथा "ए" क्लास (विद्युत कार्यों के लिए ई–1/EWSD-1 श्रेणी) संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से कुल 133 कार्यों (UBN No (UIK2425WSOB00010) to (UIK2425WSOB00142)) हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदाऐं आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त कार्यों का विस्तृत विवरण, निविदा शर्तें, अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचने, प्राप्त करने एवं खोलने की दिनांक आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uitkota** पर देखा जा सकता है।
राज.संवाद/सी/24/1082 अधिशाषी अभियन्ता

मुख्यमंत्री निःशुल्क दवा योजना
RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Gandhi Block, SwasthyaBhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur – 302005, India
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064 Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
CIN:U24232RJ2011SGC035067 E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gon.in, edprmsc@nic.in
F.02 (175)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S (MD)/NIB-12/2024/ 3643 Dated:- 19.06.2024
Notice Inviting E-Bids
E-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for supply of following items under Surgical & Sutures, the empanelment of analytical testing laboratories for the test and analysis of Surgical & Sutures/Medical Devices are invited from eligible bidders:-

	Item Name /Description	Ref. No	UBN	Estimated Value in Rs.	LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF ONLINE BIDS
1.	SURGICAL AND SUTURES	F.02 (170)/RMSCL/ Proc./S&S (MD)/NIB-09/2024/3615 Dated:-06-06-2024	MSC2425GLOB00005	Rs. 13.15 Cr	27.06.2024 Up to 6.00 PM
2.	E-Bid For The Empanelment Of Analytical Testing laboratories For The Test And Analysis Of Surgical & Sutures/Medical Devices	F.02(173)/RMSCL/LAB EMPANELMENT(S&S)/ NIB-10/2024/3622 Dated:- 12.06.2024	MSC2425SLOB00009	40.98 Lakhs	09.07.2024 up to 6.00 PM
3.	SURGICALS	F.02 (175)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S (MD)/NIB-12/2024/3642 Dated:-19.06.2024	MSC2425GLOB00013	6.87 Cr.	11.07.2024 Up to 6.00 PM

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in** and may be downloaded from there.
Raj.Samwad/C/24/1110 Executive Director (Procurement)

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Ph: 04842323448/458, Web: www.ldcl.nic.in
E-mail: lk-mdldcl@utl.gov.in, amindivi@asianetindia.com
Tender ID: 2024_UTL_2639_1 Dt : 21.06.2024
TENDER
E-tender is invited for outsourcing coconut processing unit and allied premises at Kadmath Island vide tender no. LDCL/KDMT/06/2024.
For details and E-tendering please visit website **https://tendersutl.gov.in** Tender due on 11.07.2024 at 2.30 PM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact Help Desk No. 0120-4001002, 4001005, 6277787.
Sd/- MD (LDCL)

INCOIS
भारतीय राष्ट्र महासागर सूचना सेवा केंद्र (इंकॉइस)
Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
संदर्भ: इंकॉइस: पीयूआर 80/2023 22 जून 2024
Ref: INCOIS: PUR. 80/2023 June 22, 2024
इंकॉइस वेबसाइट के विस्तार हेतु "रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति" – नियत तारीख के विस्तार हेतु संशोधन
Expression of Interest (EOI) for "Augmentation of INCOIS website"- Amendment for Extension of due date
"इंकॉइस वेबसाइट के विस्तार", हेतु "रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति" की निरंतरता में, आप सभी इछुक बोलीदाताओं को यह सूचित किया जाता है कि नियत तारीख के विस्तार हेतु शुद्धिपत्र / संशोधन सं. 2 निम्नानुसार है:
In continuation to our EOI for **"Augmentation of INCOIS website"**, this is to notify to all aspirant bidders, that the Corrigendum/Amendment No. 2 for Extension of due date is issued as appended below:

विवरण Description	संशोधन सं 01 के अनुसार As per Amendment No. 1	शुद्धिपत्र / संशोधन सं. 2 के अनुसार नियत तारीख Due date as per Corrigendum/ Amendment No. 2
रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति जमा करने की नियत तारीख EOI submission due date	21 जून, 2024 को 1500 बजे या उससे पहले On or before 1500 hrs of June 21, 2024	04 जुलाई, 2024 को 1500 बजे या उससे पहले On or before 1500 hrs of July 04, 2024
रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति खोलने की तारीख EOI opening date	21 जून, 2024 को 1530 बजे के बाद After 1530 hrs of June 21, 2024	04 जुलाई, 2024 को 1530 बजे के बाद After 1530 hrs of July 04, 2024
बयाना राशि जमा करने की नियत तारीख (ईएमडी) Due date to submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	21 जून, 2024 को 1400 बजे या उससे पहले On or before 1400 hrs of June 21, 2024	04 जुलाई, 2024 को 1400 बजे या उससे पहले On or before 1400 hrs of July 04, 2024

कृपया, विस्तृत संशोधन के जानकारी के लिए इंकॉइस वेबसाइट www.incois.gov.in देखें।
Please refer to INCOIS website www.incois.gov.in for detailed amendment.
क्रय एवं भंडार अधिकारी, इंकॉइस
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Conclusive evidence that a terrestrial leech species can jump

The Hindu Bureau

A new study presents video evidence that at least one species of terrestrial leech can jump, behaviour that scientists have debated for more than a century, published the footage and corresponding analysis in the journal *Biotropica*.

During two separate expeditions to Madagascar in 2017 and in 2023, lead author Mai Fahmy, a postdoctoral researcher at Fordham University recorded footage of leeches from the genus Chtonobdella coiling back on a leaf and then taking off. The researchers compare this motion to a "backbending cobra," or to a spring being pulled back.

In both cases, the leech keeps its body extended as it soars through the air to the ground, in a notable departure from their usual inchworm-like movements.

'Little evidence'

Several other worm-like invertebrates can jump, including the legless larvae of gall midges which assume a loop posture before propelling themselves into the air, the larvae of Mediterranean fruit flies, "skipper flies" and several caterpillars, including *Lymantria monacha* and *Orgyia leucostigma*.

While naturalists and leech biologists have long argued about the ability of terrestrial leeches in the family Haemadipsidae to jump, with some making observations of leeches leaping in their travel notes, there has been little concrete evidence until now.

The lead author collected the jumping leech and identified it as *Chtonobdella fallax*, a common species in Madagascar.

Understanding overall leech behavior is also important to conservation efforts because leeches – and more specifically, their blood meals – are increasingly being collected to survey vertebrate biodiversity.

Rotavirus vaccine: tortured data analyses raise false safety alarm

Two other self-controlled case series studies published in July 2020 and January 2021 also did not find Bharat Biotech's Rotavac vaccine to be associated with increased risk of intussusception after any dose

R. Prasad

Slamming the recently published paper by Dr. Jacob Puliyel from the International Institute of Health Management Research, New Delhi, on rotavirus vaccine safety, microbiologist Dr. Gagandeep Kang says: "If you do 20 different analyses, one of them will appear significant. This is truly cherry picking data, cherry picking analysis, changing the data around, adjusting the data, not using the whole data in order to find something [that shows the vaccine is not safe]." Dr. Kang was the principal investigator of the rotavirus vaccine trials and the corresponding author of the 2020 paper in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, the data of which was used by Dr. Puliyel for his reanalysis.

Dr. Kang's study was a post-licensure, hospital-based, active surveillance study carried out in 27 hospitals across 10 States in India. For the study, 589 infants 28 to 365 days of age who were admitted to hospitals due to intussusception (where a part of the intestine slides into an adjacent part of the intestine) and met certain criteria were recruited as study participants. The main objective was to monitor Bharat Biotech's rotavirus vaccine (Rotavac) for any increased risk of intussusception after any dose of the vaccine.

Three doses of the vaccine are administered at 6, 10, and 14 weeks of age. The vaccine was introduced into the universal immunisation programme in a few States in 2016 and across India in 2019.

Active surveillance

Since the phase-3 trial with only 6,799 participants was not powered to pick up cases of intussusception, there was active surveillance of hospitalised cases of intussusception. The NEJM study used the self-controlled case series method to assess the risk of intussusception after vaccine administration. The relative risk was calculated by comparing the incidence in three risk windows – one-seven days, 8-21 days, and 1-21 days after each dose of vaccine – with the incidence in all other observational non-risk periods for each case patient.

A case-controlled study was also done to see if there is a difference in the rate of risk among vaccinated and non-vaccinated. There was no increased risk of intussusception due to vaccination during the risk periods and in the case-controlled study. Two other self-controlled case series studies analysing the safety of the Rotavax vaccine in infants in India and published in the journal *Vaccine* in July 2020, and January 2021 also did not find the vaccine to be associated with an increased risk of intussusception after any dose.

While the NEJM study restricted the analysis to 365 days in order to look at the risk more carefully, Dr. Puliyel shortened the period of observation to six months and found 59 cases in the high-risk periods and 90 cases in the low-risk window. Based on this, Dr. Puliyel concluded that the "risk of intussusception with the rotavirus vaccine was significantly higher in the high-risk period". The premise for restricting the period of observation to six months is that intussusception peaks around seven months in the unvaccinated.

"No, it peaks anywhere between 6-15 months. Paediatric intussusception is generally seen around 10-12 months depending on which country you are in. It is towards the end of the first year of life that you see the most number of cases," says Dr. Kang. "The distribution of all cases of intussusception in infants who are vaccinated in our study show the cases going up and staying high for a long time. It certainly doesn't stop at seven months." With nearly 55 cases, intussusception cases peaked at 31 weeks as per the NEJM study and remained high at 35-42 cases per week between 22 and 37 weeks, and 10-15 cases per week between 46 and 51 weeks.

"What we are seeing is a pattern of intussusception due to vaccination coming to hospital is no different from the natural pattern of intussusception coming to hospital. There is no peaking," says Dr. Kang. Data shows cases of intussusception after each dose, and many more cases after the third dose but no peak. Explaining the reason for more cases seen after the third dose, Dr. Kang says it is because children are getting into the age when natural intussusception is increasing.

"One month after the third dose is when we have more cases anyway, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated," she says.

Based on the premise that susceptibility to adverse events need not be highest immediately after vaccination, Dr. Puliyel had considered 21 days after any dose of the vaccine as the high-risk window. But across the world, published data show that if there is a risk with rotavirus vaccine it will happen within three weeks after the child gets a vaccine dose. As per CDC, "intussusception from rotavirus vaccination usually occurs within a week of receiving a dose of vaccine".

Increased risk

In another analysis, Dr. Puliyel excluded the unvaccinated and found an increased risk of intussusception after the third dose of the vaccine.

"In the U.S., Australia, the U.K and other countries where they actually found increased risk of intussusception following vaccination, unlike our study of Indian children, the risk is usually in the first week after the first dose. You don't get it after the second or third dose. A study in Brazil found a slight increase after the second dose."

A meta-analysis of 10 self-controlled case series studies found the relative risks for intussusception were highest after the first dose and far lower after the second and third doses.

Importantly, 0.5 billion doses of Rotovac have been used globally to date. Developed countries with good AEFI reporting would have surely picked any increased cases of intussusception, particularly as it was known that rotavirus vaccines can cause more intussusception.

No safety issues with Rotavac vaccine

Active surveillance of hospitalised cases of intussusception was necessary as the phase-3 trial was not powered to pick such cases

The 2020 NEJM study was a post-licensure, hospital-based, active surveillance study carried out in **27 hospitals** across **10 States** in India

The study used the self-controlled case series method to assess the risk of intussusception after vaccine administration

No increased risk of intussusception due to vaccination was found during the risk periods and in the case-controlled study

Dr. Jacob Puliyel's study arbitrarily shortened the period of observation from one year to **six months** and found significant risk of intussusception in the high-risk period

Contrary to studies done globally and the CDC guidelines, Dr. Puliyel's study considered **21 days** after any dose of the vaccine as the high-risk window

By excluding the unvaccinated, Dr. Puliyel's study found an increased risk of intussusception after the third dose of the vaccine. A meta analysis had found more **intussusception cases** after the first dose

The birth and growth of music

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

The annual world music day was held on June 21, 2024. It is an occasion to look back at how music and rhythm have evolved from ancient times. As the study by Hattori and Tomonaga points out, when a rhythmic piece was played to a group of chimps, they began to dance in tune! However, their vocal cords have not evolved to singing; they can only grunt: and listen to them. So, we humans not only owe many of our genes and our blood groups to the apes but also our sense of rhythm!

So then, when did we humans start singing and playing music on instruments? Researchers have established that we began speaking during the Old Stone Age (2.5 million years ago and continued until 10,000 BCE), and 'singing' a little later. That we could sing and play instruments came about 40,000 years ago, when it was discovered that a flute was made using an animal bone, with seven holes in it to play 'in tune'. It is well worth clicking on this site National Museum of Slovenia and enjoying it fully.

Ragam and talam

The actual musical notations seem to have been established in Europe and the Middle East during the 9th Century BCE, with spaced notations ('do, re, ma, fa, po, la, ti'), for singing and instrument-playing Hymns. In India, it is believed to have been from the Vedic times (1,500-600 BCE) with the notes ('sa, re, ga, ma, pa, da, ni'). Dr Jameela Siddiqi writes, that we have had the swaras ('sa, re, ga, ma, pa, da, ni'). When you can hear M S Subbulakshmi sing 'Sobillu Saptaswara' in Raga Jaganmohini, and Rupaka Talam, composed by Saint Thiagaraja (denoting that musical notes come from the navel, heart, tongue, and nose of our body). We have thus made significant advancements since those days by organising the notations in a geometric and classical way and inspiring our musical tastes.

Healing method: When you listen to music, your health appears to improve. GETTY IMAGES

But one does not need to be a connoisseur or a listener of only classical music, and only listen to M S Subbulakshmi, Bismillah Khan, Bach, Beethoven or Mozart, but also enjoy jazz, qawwali, popular and film music as many people do. They too are composed of the octave or parts of it and with proper beats. Folk songs across the country, and even the world, are eminently enjoyable. A recent report by Allison Parshall in the May 17, 2024, issue of 'Scientific American' points out that folk songs across the world are similar and are enjoyed by everyone for their tone and tenor.

Benefits of music

When you listen to music, your health appears to improve. It does not matter whether it is prayer, vocal or instrumental, classical or traditional, popular and film songs. The Johns Hopkins University site says that if you want to keep your brain young, play or listen to music. Learning to sing or play an instrument improves attention, memory, mood and quality of life. This is particularly important for school and college students. Some sources have even suggested that music learning or even listening helps elderly people avert age-related problems. India has several music academies across the country, which hold periodic festivals, where we listen to both established musicians and prominent youngsters singing and playing instruments in Carnatic, Hindustani and Western styles. Let us attend them and enjoy!

SNAPSHOTS

Study in rats illuminates how the brain controls heart rate

While heart rate is predominantly controlled by the autonomic nervous system, it can be intentionally altered through training (for example, as people do in free diving), and now a new study in rats that learned to reduce their heart rate provides insights into how this works. Rats learned to reduce their heart rate within 30 minutes and achieved an approximately 50% reduction in heart rate after five days of feedback training, which persisted for at least ten days after the training period.

Study reveals how human gut reacts to intact fibrous foods

Researchers have delineated how diets either low or high in fiber can shape the metabolic landscape of the small intestines, according to their study involving 10 volunteers fed various diets. The findings demystify the complex digestive processes that break down fiber-rich foods as they travel through the gut, and show those foods support the release of a gut hormone named PYY that suppresses appetite. The research suggests that a fibrous food's shape isn't as important in evoking this hormone response.

Bacterial proteins keep cold-blooded worms alive

Cold-blooded Antarctic marine worms depend on two genera of bacteria to produce cryoprotective proteins that act like biological antifreeze to help them survive the harsh polar waters, a new study finds. Proteomic examinations showed that bacterially-derived cold-shock proteins and ice-binding proteins were present at nearly the same level as the worms' own self-made proteins, supporting the hypothesis of a phylosymbiotic relationship.

Question Corner

Self-medication

Do wild chimpanzees seek out medicinal plants to treat illness and injuries?

A new study has found that chimpanzees appear to consume plants with medicinal properties to treat their ailments. The researchers combined behavioural observations of wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) with pharmacological testing of the potentially medicinal plants they eat. They monitored the behaviour and health of 51 chimpanzees in the Budongo Central Forest Reserve in Uganda. They collected plant extracts from 13 species of trees and herbs in the reserve that they suspected the chimpanzees might be using to self-medicate, and tested them for their anti-inflammatory and antibiotic properties. They found that 88% of the plant extracts inhibited bacterial growth, while 33% had anti-inflammatory properties. The researchers observed a male Chimpanzee with an injured hand seek out and eat fern leaves, which may have helped reduce pain and swelling. The results suggest that chimpanzees seek out specific plants for their medicinal effects.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Are heatwaves natural disasters?

Who decides which disasters qualify for relief and aid? Are all heatwave deaths reported and counted?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

North India has been bearing the brunt of the longest stretch of a heatwave in the last 15 years. Figures from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare suggest that at least a 100 have died from heat-related illnesses from March 1 to June 18 across India though this is likely to be significantly under-reported. The high number of deaths have revived discussions on labelling heatwaves as a natural disaster.

Are heatwaves a natural disaster?

The National Disaster Management Act (NDMA) is the key piece of legislation governing the roles of the Centre and States in responding to a natural disaster. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal body that governs the execution of this Act. Several disaster management authorities draw their powers from this legislation and they define which natural calamities qualify for state-backed compensation. The legislation is also the genesis of special funds – at the State-level and the Centre – that can be drawn upon for a disaster.

States have appealed to the Finance Commission to expand the scope of natural calamities that can be considered a disaster as this makes them eligible for more funds

As of now, 12 disasters are notified in the Guidelines on Constitution and Administration of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), namely cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves. Heatwaves are yet to be included and this has to do with a government body that is unconnected to institutions under the NDMA.

Which is this body?

The 15th Finance Commission, the constitutional body that decides upon the revenue sharing between the Centre and States, had in its report "observed" that the list of notified disasters eligible for funding from SDRF and NDRF covers the needs of the State to a large extent and thus did not find merit in the request to expand its scope. States have appealed to the Finance Commission to expand the scope of natural calamities that can be considered a disaster as this makes them eligible for more funds.

However, in terms of the aforesaid guidelines, a State Government can use up to 10% of the annual fund allocation of the SDRF, with certain caveats, for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters, other than the aforesaid 12 disasters, that they consider to be 'disasters' within a local context in the State. Thus, compensation awarded to those confirmed by State authorities as having succumbed to heatwaves comes from these tranche. The 16th Finance Commission headed by economist Arvind Panagariya may review fresh requests by States.

Are heatwave deaths rising in India?

Heatwave deaths in India decreased from 1,127 in 2017 to 374 in 2021, according to data from the National Crime Records Bureau, though these are classified as 'accidental deaths'. In 2022, 33 deaths were reported, in 2023, none, and this year at least a 100 have been confirmed. While these are fewer than the 1,100 deaths in Andhra Pradesh in 2016, longer spells of heatwaves are becoming more frequent. State health departments are tasked with furnishing information to the Centre on heatwave- related illnesses and deaths. A challenge with classifying deaths due to heatwaves is that in several cases people succumb under the combined impact of high temperatures and existing co-morbidities such as cardiovascular disease or hyper tension. Secondly, there are varying definitions of a heatwave. While temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius are considered to have heatwave-like conditions, it can also mean temperatures that are 4.5 degrees or more above what's normal for any place. Several places in the Himalayan States with temperatures in the mid-30s have reported heatwaves, because it is several degrees above normal. There have been no official reports of heat-related deaths in these places. In most years, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Gujarat, Rajasthan are the States that report most casualties from heat. There are medical guidelines to help doctors declare, or rule out, suspected cases of heatwave illness but these are often applied unevenly.

What measures do States have in place?

With the frequency of heatwaves rising, State, district, and cities have prepared heat action plans (HAPs). The NDMA and the India Meteorological Department are working with 23 States to develop HAPs. HAPs provide a snapshot of a region's heat profile, including information on the number of past heatwave events, yearly trends in the summer maximum temperature, land surface temperature, and so on, followed by a vulnerability assessment which maps out regions that require immediate attention and a response plan.

What can the Railways do to stop accidents?

What led to the mishap involving the Kanchanjunga Express in north Bengal? What is the protocol when automatic signals are not working? Would the Kavach system have averted a collision? Why is it taking time to be installed? What about manpower shortage?

R.K. Radhakrishnan

The story so far:

On June 17, a train accident killed 10 people and injured over 40 near New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal, about 600 km from Kolkata. The mishap was caused when a goods train hit the 13174 Down Agartala Sealdah Kanchanjunga Express in the rear at 8.55 a.m. The two trains were manually cleared to run in the same block section, a mere 15 minutes apart, since automatic signalling was malfunctioning between the Ranipatra and Chattar Hat stations which fall under the Northeast Frontier Railway.

What was initial response of Railway Board?

The Railway Board initially said the *prima facie* cause of the accident was that the loco pilot of the GFCJ container train (goods train), who died in the accident, disregarded the Railways' General and Subsidiary Rules (G&SR) and proceeded at normal speed which led to the collision with the Kanchanjunga Express. The Railways has ordered a statutory inquiry.

Who is at fault?

The Railway Board initially blamed the loco pilot of the goods train; this was later rescinded, but the damage had already been done. It is impossible to operate a train across a block section on the instruction of one person; there's a chain of command and a list of procedures that need to be followed. For instance, the station masters of stations between which a train is running, the section controller (who is stationed at the divisional headquarters and monitors all rake movements), the signal staff and the gatemen between the stations have to be informed in a particular manner, and a line clearance obtained before a train leaves a station. If there is a discrepancy – like an automatic signal failure, for example – it has to be immediately escalated. In this case, the Katihar division (where the accident occurred) Railway Manager Surendra Kumar stated on record that the gateman had informed Rangapani station about the goods train on the same track as the Kanchanjunga Express. An inquiry will take into consideration this statement, and explore who all were privy to this information. While the inquiry will establish the shortcomings which led to the accident, the Railways has often been seen to take action against lower level staff, while officers at higher levels have gone scot-free after accidents.

It is impossible to operate a train on the instruction of one person; there's a chain of command and a list of procedures

Tragic event: The remains of a goods train which rammed into the Kanchanjunga Express, near New Jalpaiguri station, West Bengal on June 17. AP

Is signal failure a routine event?

In a paper, 'Analysis Report by High Level Safety Review Committee,' (2017), Mukesh Mehrotra, a chief signal engineer, noted that only 3% of the accidents in Indian Railways are due to "failure of equipment." During signal failure, trains can be operated under caution. The station master issues a TA-912 notice, which authorises loco pilots to cross a signal in red during signal failures, and a 'line clear' ticket, under the G&SR. The combination empowers the loco pilot to move forward. In this situation, the rule book says that the "driver shall proceed cautiously, so as to stop short [at] any obstruction." But if there is no prior indication that a signal is defective and the loco pilot suddenly encounters a red signal (stop sign) when the train is on the move, the loco pilot has to stop at the defective signal for a minute during day time, and for two minutes during night time. After this, the loco pilot is expected to proceed with extreme caution at a speed of 15 kmph. This procedure is not applicable when a 'line clear' ticket has been issued. Trains are not detained at wayside stations till the signals are set right. The only rule is that there should be only one train between two block sections at any given point of time. Another train can enter only after this train has left that block section.

Would Kavach have prevented the accident ?

Yes. But the much-touted anti-collision device, Kavach, was not installed on this route. Kavach would have slowed down the freight train (it was moving at 45 kmph at the time of accident) as the automatic braking system would have become operational. However, progress on implementation of Kavach has been slow because of lack of vendors. According to the Railway Board, the Kavach system is operational in only 1,500 km. The entire Railways spans nearly 68,000 km.

Railway accidents are rare if one takes this statistic into consideration: a minuscule 0.03 accidents happened per million km in both 2020-21 and 2021-22. But this number becomes infructuous if we consider the fact that there were 34 consequential train accidents in 2021-22 in which nine were killed and 45 injured. In 2022-23, however, there were 48 consequential train accidents. In fact, June 2023 witnessed the worst train accident in about two decades in Balasore, where nearly 300 passengers died.

How big of a role does human failure play?

Human failure is a major reason for accidents. In fact, almost all accidents in the recent past have listed human failure as one of the reasons. This includes the derailment of two passenger trains at Kothavalasa railway station (near Vizianagaram) in 2023; the disastrous accident in Balasore involving the Chennai-bound Coromandel Express, the Bangalore-Howrah Express and a goods train; and the 2018 derailment of the New Farakka Express.

But this is not applicable in this case. The crew of the GFCJ container train had complete rest before they signed on in the morning of June 17. Loco pilot Anil Kumar, who died in the accident, signed in at 6:44 am after a night off (he had more than 30 hours of rest). His assistant, ALP Monu Kumar, signed in at 06:42 am. His last sign-off was at 1 pm on June 15.

This cannot obliterate the fact that there are thousands of vacancies across Indian Railways for loco pilots. On June 20, the Indian Railways has pegged the vacancies at 18,799.

What more needs to be done?

Several committees have closely examined the question of Railway safety. While some of the recommendations have been accepted, others have not been considered for implementation. For instance, one of the most important recommendations of the Kakodkar Committee is related to division of responsibilities: "Three vital functions (rule-making, operations and the regulation) are all vested in the Railway Board. There is need for an independent mechanism for safety regulation. The Committee recommends the creation of a statutory Railway Safety Authority with enough powers to have a safety oversight on the operational mode of Railways." At a macro-level, Ramesh Subramanian (Evolution and Diffusion of ICTs in Indian Railways: A Historical Analysis, 2022) argues that since "Indian Railways' fortunes are vastly dictated by political needs rather than profitability," capital available to be invested in newer technologies is limited. The Indian passenger cannot afford massive expenses for modernising the system.

Hence, the Union government has to prioritise. For starters, it needs debates in Parliament to forge a political consensus on the direction of growth of Indian Railways.

Where does India stand with respect to G-7?

What was on the agenda of the recent Group of Seven meet in Italy? How many times has India been invited? As a key player in the Global South, is its voice heard? What are some of the criticisms against the grouping?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

Leaders of the Group of Seven, the U.S., Canada, Germany, France, Japan, the U.K. and Italy, met in Italy's Apulia region from June 13-15, along with the European Union leadership, for a summit to discuss a host of issues. India has been invited to the outreach 11 times, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending it for the fifth time.

What was the G-7 summit hoping to achieve?

Bridging differences between the "West and the Rest", finding new ways to fund support for the Ukraine war, investing in Africa and grappling with migration, climate change and artificial intelligence challenges, were all on the agenda for G-7 leaders. They agreed to make $50 billion more available for Ukraine, carving it out from frozen sovereign wealth funds of Russia, held a special "Energy for Growth in Africa" summit to spur investments in clean energy, attacked China for coercive trade practices, and met with leaders of 10 countries, including India, and multilateral organisations, as part of the "G-7 Outreach", to discuss the concerns of the Global South. Apart from substantive issues, the G-7 grouping has also been trying to battle its own image, as a tired set of countries representing the old world of the 'western elite'.

It remains to be seen whether India will continue to accept a spot on the G-7's margins

It was also widely commented upon that apart from Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, whose party did well in this month's European Parliament elections, all other G-7 leaders are battling tough election campaigns with sagging approval ratings.

Way forward: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the G-7 Outreach Summit, in Apulia on June 14. ANI

How important is India to the G-7 process?

India has been an important part of the G-7 process for several years now, coming to the grouping's attention in the 2000s for its steady growth figures during the global financial collapse. India is not only a key member of the Global South, and has hosted the "Voice of Global South" conference since 2023, it is also a member of the G-20 troika, along with Brazil and South Africa. Besides, Prime Minister Modi is a central figure at such outreaches, though India is not a member of the G-7.

Other countries whose leaders attended the outreach were Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritania, Tunisia, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates, along with heads of the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations and the World Bank.

Is it an important platform for India?

For India, the outreach session of the G-7 meeting, that follows a day after the main G-7 deliberations, has always been an important platform to showcase its achievements and outlook to the world. The importance of the event and India's participation can be gauged from the fact that Ms. Meloni called Mr. Modi during the election campaign to ensure his participation, and he travelled to Italy just four days after his swearing-in and even before he had proven his majority in Parliament. During the outreach session, Mr. Modi spoke about the importance of the Indian elections, which he called the "victory of the democratic world", and the importance of harnessing technology and artificial intelligence to bridge global inequality, as well as a roadmap to fight climate change. He said it was important to pay heed to the Global South's concerns, as it bears "the brunt of global uncertainties and tension", a reference to how the developing world looks at unilateral sanctions as well as food, fertilizer and energy security. Mr. Modi spent most of his time in bilateral meetings and held talks with U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Ms. Meloni. He also met with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who was a special invitee, and after the photo-op with all the leaders, he spent a few minutes with U.S. President Biden.

He released a less cordial photo of his exchange with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, reflecting the poor state of bilateral ties, but the G-7 outreach gave him the opportunity to meet global leaders and set priorities for his new term in office.

What is the future of G-7?

The G-7 is increasingly under attack for being an elitist, non-inclusive group, that doesn't include three of the world's top 10 economies, China, India and Brazil, or representation from the rest of the world, like the G-20 does, for example. In addition, the G-7, which has not increased its membership (in fact, it decreased it, by dropping Russia in 2014), is increasingly being challenged by a grouping like BRICS, that has now doubled its size from the original Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa grouping to include other countries and energy majors like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, as well as Egypt and Ethiopia. That the G-7 has been unable to change the course of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, or stop Israel's devastating bombardment of Gaza, or deterred China from its inroads into global connectivity and infrastructure and economic influence, is raising more questions about its relevance.

It remains to be seen how the G-7, which may have a different composition of leaders, given impending elections in the U.K. and the U.S., stands up to the challenge to re-invent itself as an effective grouping. It will next convene for the annual summit in Canada's Alberta region in 2025; the question is whether India will continue to accept a spot on its margins.

An ancient centre of learning

Nalanda University

Years-long efforts to re-establish the 'Mahavihara', known as the first international residential school in the world and home for learned monks and teachers, from Nagarjuna to Aryabhatta, came to fruition last week as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a specially-designed new campus in Bihar

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

PHOTO CREDIT: PTI

"Learning is being here," calls out the rejuvenated Nalanda University, situated besides the picturesque Rajgir hills, about 90 km east of Patna in Bihar. An apt description for a place which is known as the first international residential school in the world, established roughly 500 years before the famed Oxford University. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new campus of the varsity on June 19.

Although its history goes back to the times of the Buddha, the 'Nalanda Mahavihara', as it was known then, was founded in the 5th century CE by Emperor Kumaragupta, and it flourished for the next 700 years, promoting a syncretic learning experience.

The first residential university of the world was sustained by the conscientiousness of the learned monks and teachers, which included masters such as Nagarjuna, Aryabhatta and Dharmakirti. At its peak, it is believed to have possessed 2,000 teachers and 10,000 students.

Chinese travellers Hiuen-Tsang, who wrote detailed accounts about the university and was a student there himself for five years, says in his memoirs that there was a rigorous oral entrance test for students who wished to enrol and only about 20% qualified. The subjects that were taught at Nalanda included Buddhist scriptures (of both Mahayana and Hinayana schools), philosophy, theology, metaphysics, logic, grammar, astronomy and medicine.

The varsity attracted scholars to its campus from places as distant as China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and South East Asia. Those scholars have left records about the ambience, architecture, and learning at Nalanda, as well as about the profound knowledge of Nalanda teachers. The most detailed accounts have come from Chinese scholars.

The ruins of the seat of learning were first rediscovered in 1812 by Scottish surveyor Francis Buchanan-Hamilton. Later, in 1861, it was officially identified as the ancient university by Sir Alexander Cunningham. It was in March 2006, while addressing a joint session of Bihar State Legislative Assembly, that the late former President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, proposed the revival of the ancient university.

The ruins of the university had till then been a mere fascinating subject for historians and archaeologists.

Concurring ideas came simultaneously seeking the re-establishment of Nalanda: from the Singapore government; the leaders of 16-member states of the East Asia Summit (EAS) in January 2007 in the Philippines; and from the fourth East Asia Summit, in October 2009 in Thailand, according to the University website. Parliament of India passed the Nalanda University Act, 2010, and in September 2014, the first batch of students were enrolled.

Master plan

In total, 17 countries other than India – Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam – have helped set up the University. Ambassadors of these countries attended the inauguration of the campus by Mr. Modi.

In 2013, the master plan for the campus, proposed by renowned architect B.V. Doshi's Vastu Shilpa Consultants, was chosen after an international competition. Built at an initial cost of ₹1,800 crore ($210 million) and spread over 485 acres, it is a large carbon footprint-free Net-zero campus. The design and architectural elements of the new campus are inspired by the original monasteries and buildings at the Nalanda Mahavihara. It includes over 100 acres of water bodies (Kamal Sagar ponds), an on-grid solar plant, a domestic and drinking water treatment plant, and a water recycling plant as well as over 100 acres of green cover. The University also has a 250-capacity Yoga Center, a state-of -the-art auditorium, library, an archival centre and a fully equipped sports complex.

The university's Visitor is the President of India. The chancellor and chairperson of the governing board is Prof. Arvind Panagariya. The Vice-Chancellor is Prof. Abhay Kumar Singh. The varsity offers Post Graduate and Doctoral programmes in Buddhist studies, philosophy and comparative religions; languages and literature; ecology and environmental studies; sustainable development and environment; and, international relations and peace studies. At present, students from over 20 countries are enrolled in various courses.

The university admitted its first batch of 15 students in 2014 to the School of Historical Studies and the School of Ecology and Environmental Studies. Nobel prize winning economist Amartya Sen, who had been associated with the project since 2007, was the first Chancellor and the then President, Pranab Mukherjee, the first Visitor.

Beginning of the decline

The university has also seen its fair share of controversies since its inception, notably the appointment of Gopa Sabharwal, a former Reader in sociology at a Delhi University college, to the post of Vice-Chancellor. Prof. Sen later recused himself from continuing as the Chancellor for a second term. He was succeeded by former Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo, who also left citing concerns about autonomy and political interference in academic matters.

The other wrangle is the narrative surrounding the decline of the university. While the dominant account is that it was destroyed by Turkish invader Bakhtiyar Khilji around 1200 AD, some experts claim that the varsity saw a natural decay coinciding with the decline of Buddhism in the region. "The reality is that there is no historical source that talks about Bakhtiyar Khilji destroying Nalanda," says Namit Arora, author of the book *Indians: A Brief History of a Civilization*.

"Forty years after Khilji's campaign, a Persian account by Minhaj al-Siraj speaks of Khilji's destruction of a monastery and the killing of its monks. But this was not Nalanda. Scholars have firmly identified this monastery as Odantapuri, 12 km from Nalanda. It was described as located inside a fortified city (now at Bihar Sharif), a political and economic centre, and hence deemed a military target. There is no record of Khilji ever going to Nalanda, which had little political or economic allure, nor was it a thriving centre of religion at the time," he told *The Hindu*.

"For over a century, Nalanda had suffered and dwindled owing to funding cuts, followed by active persecution by the Brahminical kings of the Sena dynasty. Many of its monks had fled south long before Khilji. Rather than a dramatic final end, Nalanda continued its long phase of decay and depopulation for decades after Khilji's death (1206). Nalanda was in fact still limping along in 1234-36, supported by king Buddasena of Bodh Gaya, when Dharmasvamin, a monk from Tibet studied there and wrote about it," he added.

Demands have also been raised in both the Bihar Assembly and the Rajya Sabha to change the name of Baktiyarpur Railway station, which is just 60 km away from the varsity.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has, though, dismissed these demands, saying Bakhtiyarpur was his birthplace. "When an Act on Nalanda University was tabled in Parliament, an MP had said the destroyer of the famed varsity had stationed his camp in Bakhtiyarpur. Now, a man born in the same place is rebuilding Nalanda University," Mr. Kumar said in 2021.

THE GIST

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- Parliament of India passed the Nalanda University Act, 2010, and in September 2014, the first batch of students were enrolled
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The 'power star' of politics

Pawan Kalyan

The actor-turned-politician's bet to bring the BJP and the TDP into an alliance, along with his JSP, has paid off as the NDA swept the State in recent elections

Sumit Bhattacharjee

In the 2024 elections in Andhra Pradesh, actor-turned politician Konidala Pawan Kalyan, the founding president of the Jana Sena Party, proved that he is no 'run-of-the-mill' politician.

He exhibited his tenacity to hang on to the game of politics and hit back at his critics by scoring a 100% strike rate. His party candidates won all the 21 Assembly seats that they had contested and also secured two Lok Sabha seats, with huge majority.

Mr. Kalyan announced with a bang that he is here to stay. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was so impressed by his show of strength that in one of the meetings he referred to Pawan as '*Yeh Pawan nahi, yeh Andhee hai*' ('He is not wind', as Pawan in Hindi means wind, 'He is storm').

One among the top matinee idols in Telugu cinema, Mr. Kalyan's political career has been a chequered one ever since he launched his JSP on March 14, 2014. He faced setbacks, but he never quit, as his elder brother, K. Chiranjeevi, a mega star in Telugu cinema, had done. Chiranjeevi had launched his Praja Rajyam Party in 2008, but quit the game after his first outing and merged his party with the Congress.

Though Mr. Kalyan had launched his party in 2014, he did not contest that year's General and Assembly elections. He lent support to the National Democratic Alliance of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The NDA came to power in the residual State of Andhra, immediately after the bifurcation of the State.

But in 2019, he quit the NDA and went to the polls in an alliance with Left parties. The JSP could win just one seat with Mr. Kalyan himself losing in the two seats he contested. But the actor-turned politician did not lose hope. This time, he joined the NDA and laid the ground work for the alliance's victory in the State.

In an earlier interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kalyan had stated he was drawn towards politics from his college days and was deeply inspired by the tall leaders from the Left wing such as Che Guevara, Fidel Castro and Charu Majumdar. His vision document, 'Ism', released at the launch of his party in 2014, appears to be rooted in Left ideology.

Considered to be the 'power star' in the Telugu film industry, Mr. Kalyan, after the 2019 setback, worked tirelessly to get to the masses. His targeted campaign to address the issues of Uddanam region in Srikakulam, where chronic kidney disease has become an endemic health crisis, his outright support for the farmers of Amaravati, who were agitating against the YSR Congress government's decision to shift the capital from the city, and numerous other campaigns moved him closer to the masses. Later he launched a state-wide *yatra* in his customised vehicle 'Varahi', aimed at strengthening the JSP's connect with the voters.

Turning point

But the turning point was a meeting he had with Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the national president of the TDP and the current Chief Minister, at the Rajahmundry Central Jail in September, 2023. Mr. Naidu was then in remand over corruption allegations. Outside the jail, while addressing a press conference, Mr. Kalyan announced the tie-up with the TDP.

"I have been thinking all this while whether the TDP and Janasena must come together ahead of elections. I am in the NDA. It is my prayer that to fight against the atrocities of the YSRCP, the Janasena and the TDP must come together in the upcoming elections," he said.

He was clear that only an alliance could bring the rule of the YSRCP to an end. It is believed that Mr. Kalyan played the bridge between the TDP and the BJP to forge the three-party alliance. He also admitted that the JSP alone could not form the government. Nor did the party have the financial strength or backing to contest all 175 seats.

He settled for 21 seats and his focus was to win all of them. This gamble paid off. In the assembly elections, the NDA alliance won 164 seats, including the JSP's 21, while the YSRCP's tally sank to 11 from 141 five years ago.

A political novice 10 years ago, Pawan Kalyan is today the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

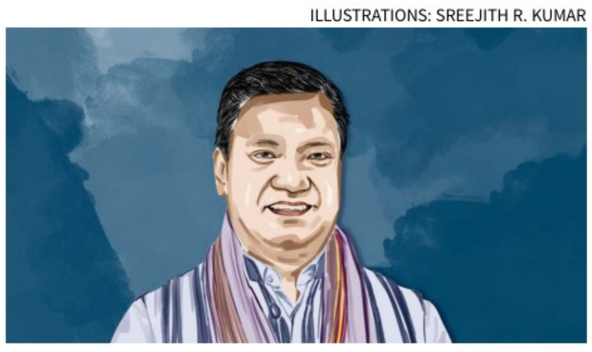
Force of stability

Pema Khandu

The Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, known for his hardline views on China and reform measures at home, has won a third term with a thumping majority

Rahul Karmakar

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



An accident propelled him from a district Congress president in 2010 to a Minister in the Arunachal Pradesh government within a year. He was 31 when his father, former Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu, died in a helicopter crash on April 30, 2011, leaving a void in Tawang district's Mukto Assembly constituency. More than a decade later and a few days into his third term, the 44-year-old Pema Khandu has become the longest-serving Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh after Gegong Apang, who formed the first BJP government in the frontier State in 2003.

Diverse ethnic interests and dependence on funds from the Centre leave little scope to be politically adventurous in Arunachal Pradesh. Mr. Khandu, who saw three Chief Ministers and a 24-day President's Rule in a span of five years and 74 days between the death of his father and his first term as Chief Minister, learnt to be cautious.

A few bold decisions of his government such as recommending permanent residence certificates to six communities not on the list of Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribes in February 2019, had led to large-scale violence. However, it did not take long for Mr. Khandu to tide over such crises, including alleged bids by some of his party colleagues to dislodge him.

Mr. Khandu has made it a point to downplay the periodic renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh by China. He has also been disinclined to follow New Delhi's position on the country across the Line of Actual Control. "Arunachal does not share a border with China. The direct border is with Tibet. China occupied Tibet. Nobody can erase history," he said in November 2020. He also said the State was unable to major projects funded by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank due to China's "unethical" claim. This made him pressure the Centre for scrapping the population criterion in funding for Arunachal Pradesh.

There has virtually been no competition for the Khandu family in Tawang, especially in the Mukto Assembly seat, since 1990. This is evident from Mr. Khandu and his father having won a few elections unopposed.

Dramatic rise

Mr. Khandu's rise to the top job in the State has had layers of drama. In 2011, he became the Minister of Tourism, Urban Development, and Water Resources. He kept a low profile as the Congress government faltered with Nabam Tuki replacing Jarbom Gamlin as Chief Minister, only to be dismissed by the Centre in January 2016. Then a "rebel" Congress government, headed by Kaliho Pul, was established in February 2016, but the Supreme Court had Mr. Tuki reinstated. Mr. Tuki sprang a surprise by resigning four days later and paved the way for Mr. Khandu to head the Congress government.

Three months later, he defected with a group of Congress MLAs to the regional People's Party of Arunachal and in December 2016, his group joined the BJP. It was the second time in 13 years that the BJP ruled Arunachal Pradesh without winning the Assembly election.

Its penetration in the State during Mr. Khandu's first term helped the BJP win 41 seats out of 60 in 2019 and five more in 2024. Building on the "political stability", Mr. Khandu pledged to pursue a transformative reform agenda through 24 citizen-centric initiatives. He also promised to enhance women's safety and promote gender equality in a State troubled by polygamy.

Mr. Khandu's push for connectivity and tourism was evident from the Donyi-Polo Airport near the State's capital Itanagar, which became a reality in November 2022 after years of uncertainty. In March 2021, he drove 140 km through jungles and slush in an off-roader to kill three birds with one stone – become the first CM to visit Vijaynagar, the State's most unconnected part on the Myanmar border, emphasise the need to carve a road to the place, and deliver the 4x4 vehicle for the Circle Office in Vijaynagar.

Now, as Chief Minister for the third time, Mr. Khandu promises to build on the initiatives he launched and implement the BJP's vision "to make Arunachal Pradesh more developed".

JERUSALEM

IDF says Israeli civilian was shot dead in occupied West Bank

AFP

The Israeli military said an Israeli civilian died after being shot near the occupied West Bank city of Qalqilya and that troops launched an operation in the area. The military and the Israeli police were investigating the circumstances of the death. In recent days, there have been several violent incidents in Qalqilya and its vicinity. AFP

SEOUL

U.S. aircraft carrier arrives in South Korea for joint military exercises

AFP

A U.S. aircraft carrier arrived in South Korea on Saturday for joint military drills aimed to better counter North Korean threats. The announcement came a day after South Korea summoned the Russian Ambassador to Seoul to protest a defence deal signed by President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong-un. AFP

XICHANG

China, France launch satellite to better understand the universe

AFP

A French-Chinese satellite blasted off on Saturday on a hunt for the mightiest explosions in the universe. The Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) is carrying four instruments — two French, two Chinese — that will seek out gamma-ray bursts, the light from which has travelled billions of light years to reach earth. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan detects 41 Chinese aircraft, seven naval vessels around island

AFP

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said on Saturday it had detected 41 Chinese military aircraft around the island in a 24-hour window, a day after Beijing said "diehard" advocates of Taiwan's independence could face the death penalty. Seven naval vessels were also spotted during the time period. AFP

Pakistan Minister condemns Swat lynching

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday condemned the lynching of a man in the town of Swat for allegedly committing desecration of the Koran, lamenting how religion is being weaponised to justify "street justice" and "vigilantism".

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, while speaking during the Budget debate in the National Assembly, said that parliament had to take stern notice of "mob justice".

On Thursday night, an enraged mob in Swat gunned down a tourist, dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view for allegedly committing desecration of the Koran.

The 40-year-old from Sialkot was visiting the resort town of Swat.

Israeli attacks on Gaza City camps leave at least 42 dead

'The occupation and its Nazi leaders will pay the price for their violations against our people,' says Hamas; IDF claims that its fighter jets struck two military infrastructure sites in northern Gaza

Reuters
CAIRO

At least 42 people were killed in Israeli attacks on districts of Gaza City in the north of the Palestinian enclave on Saturday, the director of the Hamas-run government media office said.

One Israeli strike on houses in al-Shati, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, killed 24 people, Ismail Al-Thawabta told *Reuters*. Another 18 Palestinians were killed in a strike on houses in the Al-Tuffah neighborhood.

The Israeli military released a brief statement saying: "A short while ago, IDF fighter jets struck two Hamas military infrastructure sites in the area of Gaza City."

No let-up: People make their way through the rubble of buildings destroyed at the al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City on Saturday. AFP

It said more details would be released soon.

Hamas did not comment on the Israeli claim to have hit its military infrastructure. It said in a statement the attacks targeted the civilian population and vowed "the occupation and its Nazi leaders will pay the price for their violations against our people."

Footage obtained by *Reuters* showed dozens of Palestinians rushing out to search for victims amid the destroyed houses. The footage showed wrecked homes, blasted walls, and debris and dust filling the street in Shati refugee camp.

Israel's ground and air campaign in Gaza was triggered when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and seizing more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Mounting cost

The offensive has left Gaza in ruins, killed more than 37,400 people, of whom 101 were killed in the past 24 hours.

More than eight months into the war, Israel's advance is now focused on the two last areas its forces had yet to seize: Rafah on Gaza's southern edge and the area surrounding Deir al-Balah in the centre.

The Israeli military said forces continued "precise, intelligence-based" targeted operations in Rafah, killing many Palestinian gunmen and dismantling military infrastructure.

PM Modi likely to skip SCO summit in Kazakhstan; Xi, Putin, Sharif may attend

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to skip the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to be held in Kazakhstan next month, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is expected to officiate in his place. According to sources aware of the decision, Mr. Modi has decided not to travel to Astana for the summit to be held on July 3-4, although he had earlier confirmed his presence, and an advance security team had conducted its reconnaissance survey there.

The summit hosted by Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is expected to include Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Central Asian leaders and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Mr. Modi's decision to miss the SCO Heads of State Council in Astana could also have a bearing on India's participation in the SCO Heads of Government conference, due to be held in Islamabad in 'Autumn 2024', which Pakistan would host.

When asked on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal declined to confirm India's participation in the SCO, saying that details of the visit were not yet "finalised".

The sources cited the coming Parliament session, which will run from June 24 to July 3, as the reason for Mr. Modi's decision. In addition to the Speaker's election and the President's address to both

Narendra Modi

Houses, the Prime Minister is expected to reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha between July 2 and 4.

The SCO, originally a Eurasian security and economic grouping promoted by Russia and China, includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan as full members. Iran and Belarus will be inducted this year.

Mr. Modi's absence at the SCO is likely to raise questions over India's commitment to the grouping that it joined seven years ago as a full member. Mr. Modi had visited Kazakhstan to attend the SCO Summit in 2017, but the setting has become more troublesome for New Delhi over the past few years. India's tensions with Pakistan, which also was inducted in 2017, have often been the chief irritant at the conference.

During the COVID pandemic in 2020-21, the SCO summits were held virtually. Since the military standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the deadly Galwan clashes of 2020, and the breakdown in ties, Mr. Modi has not met Chinese President Xi Jinping for a bilateral meeting anywhere, although he has engaged briefly with him on the sidelines of the G-20 in Indonesia in 2022 and the BRICS summit in South Africa in 2023.

Moscow ties

Since 2022, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also made the discourse with Moscow more difficult. Although Mr. Modi met with President Putin at the SCO summit in Uzbekistan that year, the conversation was overshadowed by the conflict, and Mr. Modi's statement that "this era is not of war".

India and Russia have not held the annual Putin-Modi summit since then, and a possible meeting when India hosted the SCO for the first time in 2023 was avoided after the government decided to hold the summit virtually, due to "scheduling difficulties".

Earlier this month, Mr. Putin's foreign policy aide and senior diplomat Yury Ushakov had told TASS news agency that the Russian President was looking forward to meeting Mr. Modi at the conference, which was especially important "in the light of the elections in India, which have just finished".

If Mr. Modi misses the SCO summit in July, it will be seen in sharp contrast to his attendance at the G-7 Summit in Italy last week, where India is not a member, but was invited to the 'Outreach' along with nine other countries.

U.K. hard-right leader Nigel Farage says West provoked Ukraine war

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Nigel Farage, leader of Britain's anti-immigration Reform U.K. party, faced strong criticism on Saturday after saying that the West provoked Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In an interview with the BBC on Friday, Mr. Farage said "we have provoked this war", while adding that "of course" it was Russian President Vladimir Putin's "fault".

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told reporters that Mr. Farage's claim was "completely wrong and only plays into Putin's hands".

Labour leader Keir Starmer, who looks set to take Mr. Sunak's job after an election next month, said Mr. Farage's comments were "disgraceful".

Russia targets Kyiv's power grid in overnight attack

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Kremlin launched 16 cruise missiles from land, sea and air along with a fleet of 13 attack drones

Ukraine on Saturday said Russia had launched a "massive" overnight attack on energy infrastructure in the west and south, adding that at least seven persons died in strikes elsewhere.

Russia launched 16 cruise missiles from land, sea and air as well as 13 attack drones, aiming at energy infrastructure in several regions.

Air defences downed all but four of them, it added.

The Energy Ministry said this was "the eighth massive, combined attack on energy infrastructure facilities" in the past three months, targeting the southern Zaporizhzhia region and Lviv in the west.

"Equipment at (operator) Ukrenergo facilities in the Zaporizhzhia and Lviv regions was damaged," the Ministry said.

More than two years into the Russian invasion, targeted missile and drone attacks have crippled Ukraine's electricity generation capacity and forced Kyiv to impose blackouts and import supplies from the European Union.

Sport

Portugal breezes into round of 16; France and Netherlands settle for a draw

Agence France-Presse
LEIPZIG

Opening salvo: Bernardo sets Portugal on its way to an easy win over Turkiye with this strike. AFP

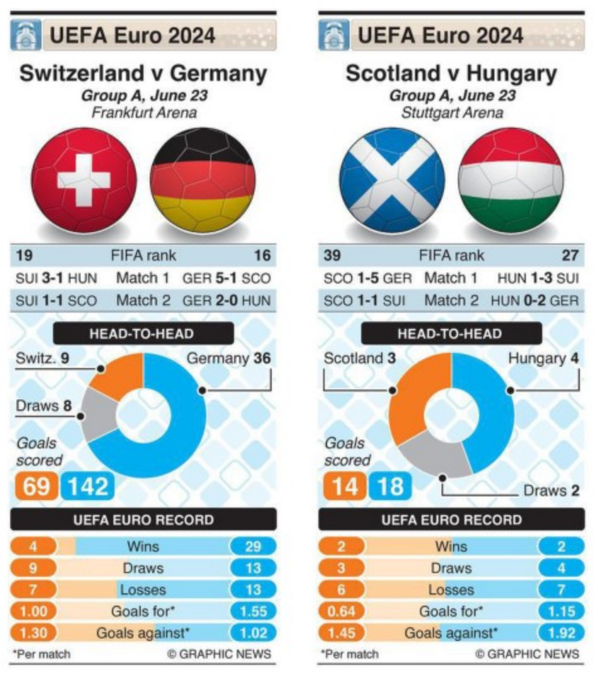
Portugal swept into the last 16 of Euro 2024 on Saturday after comfortably seeing off Turkiye 3-0 and guaranteeing first place in Group F.

Bernardo Silva's fine finish in the 21st minute, a comical Samet Akaydin own goal shortly afterwards and Bruno Fernandes's second-half tap-in – set up nicely by Cristiano Ronaldo – gave Portugal a straightforward win in front of swathes of passionate Turkish fans in Dortmund.

On Friday, France and the Netherlands edged towards the last 16 after a 0-0 draw in Leipzig that failed to catch fire in the absence of Kylian Mbappe.

The French captain sat out the whole match from the bench after breaking his nose in France's opening 1-0 win over Austria just four days ago.

Xavi Simons had a goal controversially ruled out for the Dutch, while Antoine Griezmann wasted two glorious chances for France. A share of the spoils leaves the sides level on four points at the top of Group D, one ahead of Austria. The Dutch nearly pounced on French uncertainty within a minute.



The explosive pace of Jeremie Frimpong took him clear on goal but could not produce a clean finish. Aurelien Tchouameni replaced Mbappe in France's only change as coach Didier Deschamps sought the security of an extra midfielder.

Without its captain and talisman, the 2022 World Cup finalist turned to Griezmann for inspiration.

But the Atletico Madrid forward had a moment to forget with the biggest chance to open the scoring before half-time.

An intricate move played in Adrien Rabiot but when he decided to pass rather than shoot, Griezmann failed to connect on his weaker right foot.

The normally reliable Griezmann was guilty of another big miss when his weak effort was turned behind by Verbruggen with the goal gaping.

Talking point

But the major talking point of the first goalless draw of the tournament saw the Dutch denied a winner.

Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Simons fired in on the rebound after Maignan saved from Memphis Depay 18 minutes from time.

The goal was ruled out for offside as Denzel Dumfries was adjudged to be interfering with Maignan's ability to stop the shot.

The results: Group D: Netherlands 0 drew with France 0.

Group F: Georgia 1 (Mikautadze 45+4-pen) drew with Czechia 1 (Schick 59); Turkiye 0 lost to Portugal 3 (Bernardo Silva 21, Akaydin 28-og, Fernandes 56).

FAMILIAR TERRITORY

Knowledge of the conditions has helped, says Proteas' de Kock

AFP

Quinton de Kock said knowledge of Caribbean conditions helped him propel the Proteas to a winning total against England. "I've played a lot of day T20s in the West Indies (in the Caribbean Premier League) and generally that [PowerPlay] is the most important time to score runs."

CLUTCH

It was a great catch, Buttler heaps praise on Markram's effort

GETTY IMAGES

England captain Jos Buttler heaped praise on Aiden Markram's catch to dismiss Harry Brook in the last over of the run chase. "It was a great catch and that's what South Africa has prided itself on over a long period of time. They've always had great fielders," Buttler said.

EYE ON THE PRIZE

It's our destiny and our goal to win the World Cup, says Chase

AFP

Roston Chase, who took a three-wicket haul against USA, was delighted with West Indies' emphatic performance. "It's on the spinners to come back and pull the game back and that's what we did today... it is our destiny and our goal to win the World Cup. So, from here on, we have to beat anyone we play," he said.

PRIDE

Want to finish with a victory over England, says USA skipper Jones

AFP

USA skipper Aaron Jones said he wanted to end his side's campaign with a victory over defending champion England. "I think the game against England is important. Every time I put on a US jersey, I want to win the game, regardless of who we are playing against," Jones said.

Kuldeep & Co. strangle Bangladesh after Hardik sets up a daunting chase

The all-rounder's unbeaten half-century takes India to 196, which was defended with ease by Rohit's men, who remain undefeated in the tournament

T20 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Hardik Pandya produced an all-round show while Kuldeep Yadav foxed Bangladesh batters with his guile as India all but assured itself of a semifinal berth through a dominant 50-run victory in its second Super 8 game of the T20 World Cup here on Saturday.

Star batter Virat Kohli (37 off 28) found much-needed rhythm before Shivam Dube (34 off 24) and Hardik (50 not out off 27) pushed India to 196 for five.

Bangladesh could never really challenge India in the steep run-chase and ended up with 146 for eight.

Kuldeep (three for 19) made the Bangladesh batters look clueless with the effective use of googly and stock ball.

Bumrah (two for 13) produced a frugal effort as usual. Bangladesh skipper Najmul Shanto (40 off 32) played some attacking shots including two sixes over fine leg off Hardik but did not get support from others.

Earlier, skipper Rohit Sharma (23 off 11) was happy to lose the toss at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium and alongside Kohli, was able to play his shots from the get go unlike the earlier games.

After the top-order was dismissed, Rishabh Pant (36 off 24) brought the momentum back in India's favour by collecting two fours and a six over deep midwicket off Mustafizur Rahman. Pant took the attack to Rishad Hossain before falling to the reverse sweep for the second consecutive innings. Dube and Hardik then shared a 53-run stand to take the innings forward. Hardik ended up with four boundaries and three sixes and took India close to 200, which was more than enough for Kuldeep & Co. to defend.

Unique but effective: While Hardik unleashed his power with the bat, Kuldeep's guile stole the show in the second half. ICC & AFP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Jaker b Shakib 23 *(11b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli b Sakib 37 *(28b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Rishabh Pant c Sakib b Hossain 36 *(24b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Litton b Sakib 6 *(2b, 1x6)*, Shivam Dube b Hossain 34 *(24b, 3x6)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 50 *(27b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Axar Patel (not out) 3 *(5b)*; Extras (w-6, nb-1): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 196.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-39 (Rohit, 3.4 overs), 2-71 (Kohli, 8.1), 3-77 (Suryakumar, 8.3), 4-108 (Pant, 11.4), 5-161 (Dube, 17.2).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Mahedi 4-0-28-0, Shakib 3-0-37-1, Sakib 4-0-32-2, Mustafizur 4-0-48-0, Hossain 3-0-43-2, Mahmudullah 2-0-8-0.

BANGLADESH

Litton Das c Suryakumar b Hardik 13 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Tanzid Hasan lbw b Kuldeep 29 *(31b, 4x4)*, Najmul Hossain Shanto c Arshdeep b Bumrah 40 *(32b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Towhid Hridoy lbw b Kuldeep 4 *(6b)*, Shakib Al Hasan c Rohit b Kuldeep 11 *(7b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Mahmudullah c Axar b Arshdeep 13 *(15b, 1x4)*, Jaker Ali c Kohli b Arshdeep 1 *(4b)*, Rishad Hossain c Rohit b Bumrah 24 *(10b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Mahedi Hasan (not out) 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Tanzim Hasan (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-3) 5; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 146.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-35 (Litton, 4.3), 2-66 (Tanzid, 9.4), 3-76 (Hridoy, 11.1), 4-98 (Shakib, 13.3), 5-109 (Shanto 15.3), 6-110 (Jaker, 16.1), 7-138 (Hossain, 18.3), 8-145 (Mahmudullah, 19.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-30-2, Bumrah 4-0-13-2, Axar 2-0-26-0, Hardik 3-0-32-1, Jadeja 3-0-24-0, Kuldeep 4-0-19-3.

Toss: Bangladesh; **PoM:** Hardik.
India won by 50 runs.

3Ws Oval a reminder of Caribbean cricket's once glorious era

Part of folklore: The busts of Barbados legends Worrell, Walcott and Weekes. ASHWIN ACHAL

Ashwin Achal
BRIDGETOWN

In the park outside the 3Ws Oval are the busts of three legendary cricketers – Frank Worrell, Clyde Walcott and Everton Weekes. The trio, among the best batters of their generation, were born within a couple of miles of each other in the island of Barbados.

The 3Ws Oval can be found across the road, nestled in the University of the West Indies Cave Hill campus. The quaint ground is named in memory of the popular Barbadians.

Impressive view

A massive statue of stumps stands guard over the green outfield. It is an impressive view that cannot escape the sight of the batters in the middle.

The exploits of the three 'Ws' is written in cricket folklore. The trio heralded a new era in West Indies cricket in the late 1940s, which until then had boasted of only one world-class batter in George Headley.

Worrell was the first black cricketer to captain the West Indies cricket team, and led the team in the famous 1960-61 tour to Australia.

Such was his popularity that the perpetual Frank Worrell Trophy, awarded to the winner of West Indies-Australia Test series, was commissioned at the end of that tour.

Walcott was arguably the best batter in the world in the 1950s. His numbers reached the zenith when he gave up the wicketkeeping gloves to focus purely on scoring runs.

World record

Weekes, a powerful stroke-player, set a world record of five successive hundreds in Test innings. This still stands undefeated. The 3Ws Oval serves as a reminder of a once glorious era of Caribbean cricket.

Bowlers, Hope shine as West Indies thumps USA

Press Trust of India
BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Opener Shai Hope blasted an unbeaten 82 as West Indies came back roaring to crush the United States of America by nine wickets in the T20 World Cup Group 2 Super 8 match here.

After bowling out the USA for a mere 128 in 19.5 overs, the West Indies batters went all guns blazing from the word go to knock off the target in 10.5 overs.

The Caribbean side, which had suffered an eight-wicket hammering from England, is now placed second with two points and a Net Run Rate of 1.814.

Johnson Charles fell for a 14-ball 15 with a couple of fours early on but the pair of Hope and Nicholas Pooran did the job for their side.

Hope clattered eight sixes and four fours to make 82 not out from just 39 balls, with Pooran reaching 27 not out from 13 balls with three sixes and a four.

Blazing away: Hope upped the ante to give his side's Net Run Rate a much-needed boost. AFP

The scores: USA 128 in 19.5 overs (Gous 29, Russell 3/31, Alzarri 2/31, Chase 3/19) lost to West Indies 130/1 in 10.5 overs (Hope 82 n.o., Pooran 27 n.o.).
Toss: West Indies; **PoM**: Chase.

Buttler's England eyes massive victory to stay alive

Press Trust of India
BRIDGETOWN

Defending champion England will need its power hitters to do the job against a demoralised yet tricky USA in its final Super 8 match on Sunday.

England batters couldn't produce the big hits against South Africa, suffering a narrow seven-run loss.

West Indies' massive win over the USA has opened up the group, leaving England with the task of pushing its Net Run Rate up. While South Africa is currently sitting atop the Group 2 with two wins, both West Indies and England have a win and a loss each with the former having a better NRR.

However, no team is assured of a semifinal berth and England will need to defeat USA by either 10 runs or at least with an over to spare to stay in contention for the semifinals.

For SA, a loss – even in a Super Over – against WI will knock it out of the race if England can achieve its task.

If the Proteas win and Jos Buttler's men lose to USA, it will again be a three-way tie between WI, ENG and USA for the second spot.

Today's matches

Afghanistan vs Australia
St. Vincent, 6 a.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
Played: 1
Afghanistan 0 | Australia 1

USA vs England
Barbados, 8 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
First Meeting

Can Afghanistan spring a surprise on the Aussies?

Press Trust of India
KINGSTOWN

A stern test awaits Afghanistan as it takes on a rampant Australia in its T20 World Cup Super 8 Group 1 clash.

Coming off a 47-run thrashing at the hands of India, Rashid Khan's men will be under pressure not just to record a win but also to improve their Net Run Rate (-2.350).

While Rahmanullah Gurbaz (178 runs) and Ibrahim Zadran (160) have been at the forefront of Afghanistan batting, they need more contributions from their middle and lower-order batters.

Both Fazalhaq Farooqi (15 wickets) and Rashid (nine) have made life tough for batters consistently and they will be crucial to stop the battery of in-form Australian batters.

David Warner (169 runs) and Travis Head's (179) destructive opening pair can take down the best of bowling attacks and in such a scenario, Rashid's use of Farooqi and himself could have a big impact on the proceedings.

The last time these two teams met was in the 2023 ODI World Cup. Glenn Maxwell had played a once-in-a-generation knock to notch up a sensational double century while battling cramps, with Pat Cummins providing sturdy support from the other end.

Afghanistan would certainly be motivated to exact revenge for that loss in a format in which it feels most comfortable.

Wankhede memories: Afghanistan will know how destructive Maxwell can be on his day. GETTY IMAGES

INBRIEF

Gangjee holds on in close finish to win Selangor Masters

Rahil Gangjee won the PKNS Selangor Masters despite six bogeys in his 3-over 73 on the final day as he prevailed over Deyen Lawson (69) by one shot, on Saturday. The 45-year-old veteran, who had started the day with a five shot lead, finished at 8-under for the wire-to-wire win as Lawson was 7-under.

Bengaluru races on Saturday and Sunday cancelled

The races scheduled to be held in Bengaluru on June 22 and June 23, 2024 stood cancelled due to administrative reasons.

Chile, Peru in a hard-fought goalless stalemate

Two-time Copa America champion Chile opened its bid for a third title with a hard-fought 0-0 draw against Peru in Arlington on Friday. A scrappy encounter at the Texas home of the Dallas Cowboys NFL team saw neither side manage to get on top before a result that boosts Argentina's hopes of winning Group A. Chile was left ruing a golden missed chance from veteran Inter Milan forward Alexis Sanchez in the 16th minute.

Team Wildboar steamrollers BCYA in Travancore Cup

Team Wildboar thrashed BCYA 9-2 as the second phase of the KSHA Travancore Cup hockey tournament got underway in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The result: Team Wildboar 9 (Pavan 4, 8, Cheswin 10, Gagan 13, 14, Kalappa 16, Nikhil 21, 46, Naren 28) bt BCYA 2 (Joshwa 29, 47).

AITA confirms Sumit Nagal's entry for Paris Olympics

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced the confirmation of Sumit Nagal's entry for the Paris Olympics, in a statement issued here on Saturday. The doubles entry of Rohan Bopanna and Sriram Balaji had been confirmed earlier. The 26-year-old Nagal is ranked a career-best 71 in singles following two Challenger titles this season, apart from a final. "The AITA extends its heartfelt congratulations to Sumit Nagal, Rohan Bopanna and Sriram Balaji. We are confident that they will make the nation proud and inspire future generation of tennis players in India," said Anil Dhupar, secretary-general, AITA.

LIVE TELECAST

India Women vs South Africa Women: 3rd ODI, Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 1.30 p.m.
Formula One: Spanish GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.
T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 8 p.m. & 6 a.m. (Monday)
Hockey Pro League: Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 8.30 p.m.
Football: Euro 2024, Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Monday)

India will need to guard against complacency

The South Africans, boosted by their spirited chase in the second ODI, will aim for an important win on the road to next year's World Cup while the hosts eye a clean sweep

Ready for the battle: Smriti, captain Harmanpreet, and Renuka at a training session ahead of the third ODI. K. MURALI KUMAR

SA IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

India will look for a clean sweep while South Africa will aim for an important win on the road to next year's World Cup when the two meet in the third and final ODI of the series, at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday.

India may have edged out the visitors by four runs in the last match to pocket the series, but South Africa, by coming within a whisker of chasing a world-record 326-run target, proved it was no laggard. India can ill-afford to drop its guard if it wishes for a spotless record.

While Smriti Mandhana notched up her second century on the bounce and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur returned to form with a hundred, there is a big question mark over opener Shafali Verma's 50-over credentials. Sunday may well be her last chance to prove the critics wrong.

For South Africa, the game will be crucial to earn ODI World Cup qualification points. In that quest, the performances from skipper Laura Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp in the previous encounter will come as confidence boosters.

After the Proteas' batting crumbled in the first ODI (122 all out), the pair scored first-rate centuries and made a good fist of chasing down India's mammoth total. A few more runs from fellow top-order batters Tazmin Brits and Anneke Bosch can make the line-up fully rounded.

There are, however, two sources of intrigue ahead of the series-ender. It remains to be seen if India chooses to rotate its squad in order to keep the lot match-fit, for the caravan will move to Chennai next for the one-off Test and three T20Is.

Then, there is the fickle Bengaluru monsoon weather, which has so far shed its capricious nature and provided perfect conditions for cricket. The holiday crowd will expect more of the same.

The wind factor— a double-edged sword

Turning point: Livingstone was a victim of the wind factor against South Africa. AP

T20 WORLD CUP

Ayan Acharya
GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA)

The Daren Sammy Stadium in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, poses a unique challenge for teams competing in T20 World Cup matches due to its pronounced crosswind blowing from the Party Stand towards the Johnson Charles Stand.

With average speeds of 15-16 kph, occasionally reaching up to 20 kph, this wind significantly influences gameplay, especially given the stadium's low stands and open layout that offer minimal wind protection.

During the Super 8 match between England and South Africa on Friday, the wind played a decisive role. South African opener Quinton de Kock capitalised on the wind's direction during his knock of 65, leveraging it to exploit his strong suit on the leg- side.

Conversely, England struggled to adjust, with key batters like Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler, and Moeen Ali falling victim to mistimed shots into the wind.

One of the major setbacks came when Kagiso Rabada bowled a full toss, and Liam Livingstone smacked it into the wind, only to find Tristan Stubbs on the boundary, the wind resisting the ball's flight.

The body blow came when, with 14 needed off the last six balls, Harry Brook, batting on 53 off 36, tried to clear long-off, only for Proteas captain Aiden Markram to run back, leap, and hold on to the catch.

The Daren Sammy Ground hosts its final Super 8 match between India and Australia on Sunday. With both teams featuring a blend of right-hand and left-hand players, they can leverage the wind advantage while batting, maximising shots downwind and using it as a defensive option when bowling.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Akshath's scalps seven as Vijaya CC trounces Jupiter CA

Akshath Prabhakar scalped seven for five as Vijaya CC hammered Jupiter CA by 237 runs in the KSCA (Group I) under-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Vijaya 259 in 47.4 overs (R.R. Rohan 42, Anvay Dravid 70, Pranav Kedlaya 33, Aryan Manuj 4/42) bt Jupiter CA 22 in 8.4 overs (S. Agastya 3/13, Akshath Prabhakar 7/5).

Coles 222 in 40.2 overs (Rishab B. Nayak 27, Vismay Raj 34, Srey Rithwik Kabolu 25, Siddhant Pathak 72, P.M. Vismai 3/43, T.R. Pujan 3/27) bt National United 150 in 31.5 overs (S. Siddhanth 33, Ashith Shivanna 55, Pranshu J. Patel 3/32, Abhinv Shah 3/28).

The Bangalore Cricketers 364/5 in 50 overs (L. Karthesh 51, D.S. Bhushan 115, S. Daivik 124, N.L. Likith 37 n.o.) bt Jawans 172 in 44 overs (P. Vidyasagar 76, Kushal Srinivas Gowda 3/28, M. Jeevan Sukeerthi 3/37, N.L. Likith 3/33).

Gandhinagar Cricketers 228 in 50 overs (K. Krishna Kapil 42, Samanyu Raina 72 n.o., V.K. Roopak 3/25, Charan S. Reddy 3/34) bt Jayanagar Cricketers 171/9 in 43 overs (R. Hemanth 59 n.o., Samanyu Raina 3/38) [Target revised to 197 from 43 overs because of rains].

Sir Syed Cricketers 163 in 42.4 overs (Manik Raj 80, M. Tanmay 31, Raghav Karthik 3/29, Dev Sinha 3/20) bt Visweswarampuram (1) 125 in 42.3 overs (Dev Sinha 42).

Rajajinagar Cricketers 258 in 49.4 overs (S. Vishnu Viran 41, S. Abhiraj 44, Nitish Arya 101, K.A. Tejas 27, R. Rohit 3/38, M.G. Shiva Guru Rakshith 3/45) bt Engrades 150/5 in 30 overs (Supreeth Kumar 50, R. Pratham 57 n.o.) [On better run-rate after rain stopped play].

South End SC 186 in 36.5 overs (Roshan Raju 38, P. Hrishikesh 82 n.o., Aereeona Alphen 35, Shreyas Kumar 3/31, Mohammed Faiz 3/38) lost to Cambridge 172/1 in 30.2 overs (Pratheek 77, S. Aditya 55 n.o., H.B. Gagandeep 33 n.o.).

FUCC (1) 217 in 49.1 overs (Pavan R. Sheshagiri 38, Ravi Kairav Reddy 56, Siddesh A. Asalkar 50, Susheel R. Udupi 4/27) bt Bangalore SC 211 in 49.5 overs (N. Prateekh 87, Arnavv Sharma 48, Aditya Navalgund 3/46).

Sangam CA 100 in 21.3 overs (H. Bharath Gowda 41, R.K. Siddharth 3/28) lost to Wadiyar 104 for no loss in 10.1 overs (G. Murali Krishna 41 n.o., Nishanth Reddy 44 n.o.).

BUCC (1) 271/7 in 50 overs (K.P. Aryan 42, Akash Shetty 76, Aryan Mawa 63, K. Gagan 47 n.o., Prathyush G. Shetty 3/59) bt Lions 226/9 in 50 overs (Mohnish A. Bharadwaj 27, R. Rohith Reddy 75 n.o., Siddarth Krishnamurthy 3/30).

Jayanagar United Cricketers 276/9 in 50 overs (Dhruv Shetty 28, Siddharth Gurav 102, Kavisha Umesh Mukkannavar 42, S. Rishabh Kumar 26, Aadesh Urs 4/31) bt Century Cricketers 193 in 43.5 overs (Pradyumna Panigrahy 68, Aadesh Urs 43, Aryaman Jhalani 7/33) [Target revised to 197 from 49 overs because of rains].

Jaidur Cricketers 259 in 48.3 overs (Udhay Girish 34, Arya J. Gowda 58, Nihal Gagan Chetty 32, Rishikesh Bindig 36 n.o., Dheeganth S. Mavinkere 3/36) bt City Gymkhana 138 in 36 overs (Gaurav Venkatesh 27 n.o., Arya J. Gowda 5/22).

Atharva and Tanishka claim under-15 titles in State-ranking table tennis tournament

Atharva Nawarange and Tanishka Kapil Kalbhairav emerged the boys' and girls' U-15 singles champions respectively at the State-ranking table tennis tournament being held here.

While Atharva defeated N. Aarnav 11-8, 11-8, 11-8, Tanishka beat Hiya Singh 11-8, 11-6, 11-6.

State junior football team selection trials on June 24

The Karnataka State Football Association will conduct trials on June 24 at the Bangalore Football Stadium to select the State junior team for the National Football Championship.

Those born in the window January 1, 2009 to December 12, 2010 are eligible.

Interested candidates should be in attendance at 3 p.m. with a copy of their birth certificates.

Indian women's compound team completes a hat-trick

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

The Indian trio of V. Jyothi Surekha, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami claimed its third consecutive compound women's team gold medal of the season in the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya, Turkey, on Saturday. Priyansh took the silver medal in the men's individual event.

The top-ranked Indian women's side shot well to build a slender one-point lead in the opening end and built on it to beat Estonia, represented by Lisell Jaatma, Meeri-Marita Paas and Maris Tetsmann, 232-229 in the title clash.

The Indian women, who clinched the World title and the Asian Games gold last year, hit the bulls eye five out six times in the penultimate end and four times in the final end to assert their supremacy on an extremely hot day. This was their fourth straight World Cup Stage gold medal, including the Stage-4 gold in Paris in September last year.

Firing away! Jyothi Surekha and Aditi watch Parneet in action. X@WORLDARCHERY

"Despite the heat, we kept our focus on our shots and rhythm," individual World champion Aditi told World Archery.

Priyansh, who got a one-point lead in the opening end, scored a perfect score to pip Denmark's European champion Mathias Fullerton 150-149 in the semifinals. The 21-year-old Indian lost to World No.1 Dutchman Mike Schloesser 149-148 in a keenly-fought final.

Priyansh missed a 10 by a whisker to give away a one-point advantage to Schloesser in the first end. He gave the Dutch a close chase before both scored a nine apiece in the final end and the experienced Schloesser walked away with the gold.

Norris pips Verstappen for his second career pole

Edging ahead: Norris, right, shares a light moment with Verstappen after topping the qualifying race. REUTERS

SPANISH GP

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

McLaren's Lando Norris produced a spellbinding late lap to deprive Max Verstappen of pole for the Spanish Grand Prix in qualifying on Saturday.

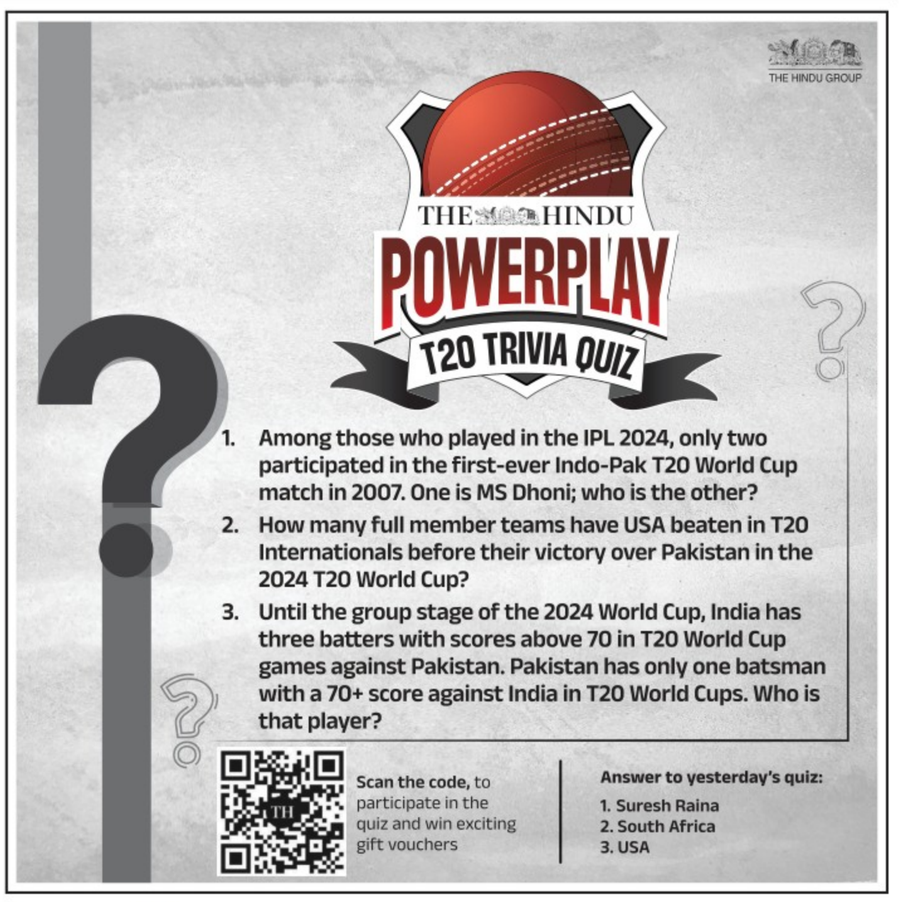
Lewis Hamilton will start on the second row alongside his Mercedes teammate George Russell.

Verstappen looked nailed on to start Sunday's 10th round of the season from the front of the grid. But in the last throw of the top-10 shoot-out Norris denied the Red Bull ace by a mere two hundredths of a second.

"Today was the perfect lap," said Norris after only his second career pole. "Max seemed a bit stronger, but we made some changes," added the Briton who won his maiden Grand Prix this season in Miami.

Verstappen, targeting a fourth straight World title, leads the championship by 56 points from Charles Leclerc, who starts Sunday's race in fifth, with Norris seven points back in third.

Starting grid: Row 1: Norris (McLaren), Verstappen (Red Bull); **Row 2:** Hamilton (Mercedes), Russell (Mercedes); **Row 3:** Leclerc (Ferrari), Sainz (Ferrari); **Row 4:** Gasly (Alpine), Perez (Red Bull); **Row 5:** Ocon (Alpine), Piastri (McLaren); **Row 6:** Alonso (Aston Martin), Bottas (Sauber); **Row 7:** Hulkenberg (Haas), Stroll (Aston Martin); **Row 8:** Zhou (Sauber), Magnussen (Haas); **Row 9:** Tsunoda (RB), Ricciardo (RB); **Row 10:** Albon (Williams), Sargeant (Williams).


THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
POWERPLAY
T20 TRIVIA QUIZ
1. Among those who played in the IPL 2024, only two participated in the first-ever Indo-Pak T20 World Cup match in 2007. One is MS Dhoni; who is the other?
2. How many full member teams have USA beaten in T20 Internationals before their victory over Pakistan in the 2024 T20 World Cup?
3. Until the group stage of the 2024 World Cup, India has three batters with scores above 70 in T20 World Cup games against Pakistan. Pakistan has only one batsman with a 70+ score against India in T20 World Cups. Who is that player?
Scan the code, to participate in the quiz and win exciting gift vouchers
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Suresh Raina
2. South Africa
3. USA

THE GREAT INDIAN *PROTEIN GAP*

In India, protein deficiency is a major health concern, impacting a large chunk of the population. A 2018 IPSOS study revealed that 68% people in India have lower than adequate protein content in their body. A 2017 survey by IMRB found that 73% of urban rich Indians are protein deficient and 93% are unaware about their daily protein requirement.

You need
1g
Protein
per kg
of your
body weight
every day.
*The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommends a protein intake of 0.8 grams per kg of body weight per day.

WHY *MILK PROTEIN?*

Protein isn't just a nutrient; it's a fundamental pillar of human physiology. It is made up of long chains of 20 amino acids. A human body can produce 11 of the 20 amino acids, while the remaining 9 must be obtained from food. Bovine milk protein is considered a high-quality protein because it contains all the 9 essential amino acids. Additionally, milk is a source of branched-chain amino acids (BCAAs) -leucine, isoleucine, and valine as well as vitamins (A, D, E, K) and minerals (calcium and zinc). These nutrients are vital for muscle growth and recovery, bone health, better immune function, and liver health. Not just quantity but the quality of protein also matters. Milk protein is the best quality source of protein and is given Protein Digestibility-Corrected Amino Acid Score (PDCAAS) of 1 and Digestible Indispensable Amino Acid Score (DIAAS) of 1.22.

FIRST TIME DEVELOPED IN INDIA

AMUL LACTOSE FREE CHOCOLATE WHEY PROTEIN

PRESENTING

With 25g of protein in every sachet, Amul's lactose free chocolate whey protein has 5g of BCAA.

KNOW YOUR *AMUL HIGH PROTEIN RANGE*

Products	Protein (g)	Calories (kcal)	Added Sugar (g)	Price (INR)
Amul High Protein Tin Paneer 400g	50	348.5	0	150
Amul High Protein Dahi 400g	25	272	0	70
Amul Plain Whey Protein -30 sachet	25	128	0	66.67
& 60 sachet (values per sachet)	25	128	0	58.33
Amul Protein Shake Blueberry 200ml	20	138	0	50
Amul Protein Lassi Rose 200ml	15	107	0	25
Amul Protein Buttermilk 200ml	15	108	0	25
Amul High Protein Milk 250ml	35	225	0	99
Amul Chocolate Whey Protein – 30 sachet (values per sachet)	25	130.2	0	76.63

WHY IS INDIA TALKING ABOUT Amul PROTEIN?

WHY CHOOSE *AMUL PROTEIN?*

A recent study published in Medicine journal (2024) found that 25 out of 36 (69.4%) tested protein supplements in the Indian market are mislabeled, meaning they have less protein than advertised. Amul, India's most trusted milk brand, comes with the promise of purity, hygiene, and high-quality standards. Amul High Protein Range provides 100% milk protein at affordable prices.

Amul High Protein Blueberry Shake packs 20g of protein with only 138 kcal.

PRESENTING

WORLD'S FIRST HIGHEST PROTEIN MILK

LET'S BUST SOME *PROTEIN MYTHS*

- Is protein only for body-builders? No! Everyone needs protein—even couch potatoes.
- Is protein not for women? No! Everyone needs protein, regardless of gender or age.
- Is protein bad for kidneys? No! Not unless there's an existing problem — healthy organs don't discriminate.
- Is whey protein artificial? No! Whey is derived from milk, a completely natural ingredient.